



# PETER FRAMPTON

**\*\*\*‘FINGERPRINTS’ ALBUM RELEASED  
OCTOBER 23rd ON SPV\*\*\***

**LEGENDARY ARTIST’S FIRST INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM FEATURES  
MEMBERS OF PEARL JAM, THE ROLLING STONES AND THE SHADOWS,  
AS WELL AS WARREN HAYNES AND OTHERS**

As a boy growing up in England, Peter Frampton adored the music of instrumental bands like the Shadows and the Ventures, as well as a potpourri of the popular jazz, blues and classical guitarists that were vital to youth at the time. Before long, he set out on an influential career in music of his own, eventually selling out arenas and garnering multi-platinum sales. Frampton returns to his roots with Fingerprints, finally culminating his lifelong dream of recording an instrumental album in the spirit of his first musical heroes.

In a career full of accolades, Frampton is particularly proud of Fingerprints: “This has been the CD I’ve been waiting to make all my life. Every track has been a wonderful challenge, pushing me to raise my own bar again and again.”

With a stellar cast of players, Frampton traverses a diversity of material on Fingerprints, from American soul to Latin balladry and all-out rock tunes. To help bring his childhood musical dream to life, Frampton invited Rolling Stones Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman to play on “Cornerstones”; original Shadows members Hank Marvin and Brian Bennett to perform with him on “My Cup of Tea”; and Pearl Jam’s Mike McCready and Matt Cameron join him for a cover of Soundgarden’s “Black Hole Sun” and the original “Blowin’ Smoke.”

Fingerprints also reveals Frampton’s penchant for American roots music, especially on “Blooze,” featuring Warren Haynes on slide guitar, and “Double Nickels” featuring Nashville virtuoso Paul Franklin on pedal steel. Frampton trades licks with British saxophone legend Courtney Pine on the blues rocker “Boot It Up.” He and guitarist/co-producer Gordon Kennedy play harmonizing electric guitars on “Float,” another album highlight. Another guitar virtuoso, John Jorgenson, joins Frampton on the Django Reinhardt-style “Souvenirs De Nos Pères.”

Fingerprints follows Frampton’s critically acclaimed 2003 release, *Now*, which prompted The Washington Post to proclaim, “Frampton comes alive again.” In another review, the BBC described Frampton’s playing as “faultless throughout.” The Associated Press said, “When it comes to fiery, guitar-drenched rock, Frampton delivers.”

The consistency of Frampton’s playing was also affirmed when he earned a “Best Rock Instrumental Performance” Grammy nomination for *Live in Detroit* (2000). In 2001, Universal released the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Deluxe Edition of the 1976 landmark Frampton *Comes Alive*, to much acclaim. The album remains one of the most successful live albums of all time and continues to influence generations of young artists.

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[www.frampton.com](http://www.frampton.com) 27th September 2006.



# PETER FRAMPTON

## 'Live In Detroit' double live album released August 29<sup>th</sup> on SPV Through Koch

Peter Frampton – Vocals, Lead Guitar  
Bob Mayo – Vocals, Keyboards, Guitars  
John Regan – Vocals, Bass Guitar  
Chad Cromwell – Vocals, Drums

'Live In Detroit', Peter Frampton's excellent new double CD, due for release in the UK on SPV through Koch on August 29<sup>th</sup>, was taped on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1999 at Pine Knob in Michigan. "I am really proud of 'Live in Detroit'. It is a great show and I hope you will enjoy it as much as we did making it!" comments Frampton.

Peter, who was born in Beckenham, Kent, first became interested in music as a seven-year old, when he discovered his grandmother's banjolele (a banjo-shaped ukulele) in the attic. Teaching himself to play, he became near obsessed, and, upon receiving a guitar from his parents, mastered that as well. By the age of 10, Frampton was playing in a band called The Little Ravens and played on the same bill at school as George & The Dragons, a group including David Bowie, with whom Peter would spend time together at lunch breaks, playing Buddy Holly songs.

At 16 Peter was recruited as lead guitarist/singer in The Herd, who scored a handful of British hits and Peter was subsequently named "The Face Of 1968" by the UK media. In 1969, aged 19 years old, he formed Humble Pie with ex-Small Faces singer/guitarist Steve Marriott. The original band stayed together for five albums; "The great thing for me about Humble Pie was that it was energy unlimited. It was the perfect band for me to develop and define the Frampton style guitar. Everybody was listening to Blues Breakers and Cream for Eric Clapton and so was I, but at the same time I was also listening to Kenny Burrell, George Benson, Wes Montgomery and Django Reinhardt.

Frampton went solo in 1971, just in time to see 'Rockin' The Fillmore' chase up the US charts. The next five years were a period of writing, recording and touring, as well as guesting on many other artists' records (most famously Nilsson and George Harrison). His first 3 albums – 1971's 'Wind Of Change', 1973's 'Frampton's Camel' and 1974's 'Somethin's Happening' were well received but it was 1975's 'Frampton' album which finally established him as a solo artist. "My most prolific writing period was right before we recorded 'Frampton'. The whole album took only three weeks to write, and gave us 'Show Me The Way', which was written one day before lunch, and 'Baby I Love Your Way', which was written the same day after tea, as the sun was setting! 'Frampton' was the most satisfying album to date, as I felt I had a really good selection of songs."

All this culminated in the astonishing success of 'Frampton Comes Alive!', a live album recorded at San Francisco's famed Winterland, and released in 1976. The album spawned three huge hit singles, 'Do You Feel Like We Do?', 'Baby I Love Your Way' and 'Show Me The Way' and became the biggest selling live album in rock music history, selling an estimated 10 million copies that year. By the end of 1976, Peter had been named Rolling Stone Magazine's 'Artist of the Year' and

had reportedly earned an estimated gross of \$70 million in concert fees and royalties. To date, the album has sold over 16 million copies.

The subsequent years were a challenge, both musically and personally. Although he would have preferred a long break from the non stop hubbub of '76, Peter nonetheless returned to the studio, and released 'I'm In You' in 1977, seeing the album and same-titled single reach platinum and #1 respectively. Guest musicians lined up to help out, Mick Jagger and Stevie Wonder included. A version of Stevie Wonder's 'Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours' was a single success.

In 1978 Peter played the role of Billy Shears in the movie version of The Beatles' 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', alongside the Bee Gees. While the movie was not well received, the soundtrack album reached #5 in the charts and went platinum. Later in 1978, Peter suffered a near fatal car crash in the Bahamas, which left him with concussion, muscle damage and broken bones.

In 1979 he released the album 'Where I Should Be', which went gold and produced the hit 'I Can't Stand It No More', followed by 'Breaking All The Rules' in 1981 and 'Art Of Control' in 1982. He then took a four year break. Looking back on his music of this time Frampton said: "I think that basically I wasn't on track. People forgot about me, the guitarist, my image became that of a singer/personality. Up until 'Frampton Comes Alive!' and the success of that, I'd always written for my own enjoyment. I wasn't thinking about what anybody else would want to hear from me. It was what came out naturally. The pressure that 'Frampton Comes Alive!' brought to bear on me was that I started to second guess myself and think, 'I wonder what I should write?'. No artist can ever think about what anybody else wants. It's got to come from you. So for the first time in my life, I was starting to wonder what I should do instead of letting it happen. That was a mistake. The first sign that I was over that came with the song 'Lying', which is on the album 'Premonition', released in 1986. That one sort of wrote itself; I finally stopped thinking about it."

In 1987 he was invited by David Bowie to play lead guitar on the latter's Glass Spider World Tour. "It was right after that period of writing 'Lying.' I went on the road to promote the 'Premonition' record. David Bowie called me on the road and asked me if I would play on the 'Never Let Me Down' record. He had heard the 'Premonition' record and said, "My God, your guitar playing is great. Would you come and do some of that for me?". I said, "Absolutely!" and went to Switzerland for the 'Never Let Me Down' sessions.

Then he asked me if I would go on the road with him. There was no pressure on that tour. In fact, I shied away from doing my backing vocals. I didn't really want to sing at all. So for the better part of a year, I was able to play whatever I felt like playing. I was a hired gun and it really reminded me of being in Humble Pie again. It was a pretty raucous, flat out, straight ahead rock band, with a lot of energy. I'll be the first one to admit that I got a huge kick out of standing out there and playing the opening riff to 'Rebel Rebel'. From that, I'd be playing numbers that Stevie Ray Vaughn had played on. I wasn't going to attempt to play them like him, because that's not my style, but it was an honour to be considered to be able to cover all of those musical bases".

As for David Bowie himself, Frampton commented at the time that "We've never been this close before, but he's exactly the same as the fifteen-year-old that I knew back at Bromley Tech. I find us very similar in many ways. We come from the same town, we almost sound alike when we talk - talking to him on the phone is like talking to myself. He's just a very easy-going guy who knows what he wants."

After the tour was over, Peter moved to Los Angeles and started writing and recording at home. These songs became the the basis for the 'When All The Pieces Fit' album, released in 1989. The previous year, the Florida based band 'Will To Power' had a US #1 hit with a version of Peter's 'Baby I Love Your Way', coupled with 'Freebird' as a medley, which also reached #9 in the UK charts.

In late 1990, Peter contacted his old friend Steve Marriott and began a musical collaboration with him that seemed to have great potential. Sadly, the project was doomed, as Steve was tragically killed in a fire at his home in April 1991. By this time, Peter had co-written 4 songs with Steve, and recorded 3 of them in LA, rehearsing a band to go out and play. This was the first time they had worked together since 1971, and Peter had even jammed with Steve at a small pub in London.

"We were very close, and we were working together right up until the time he died. We were not going to redo Humble Pie, but this was gonna be a Peter Frampton/Steve Marriott, Steve Marriott/Peter Frampton project. But the good thing is we did get to write and work and record together, and you can actually hear them on CDs I put out. But, here I was with a partner again, feeling that I was back on track and all of a sudden, he's gone. It was another reason I felt I had to go back on the road".

And he did, this time concentrating on small clubs and venues, in an effort to return to his roots and stay close to the audience. What was to be six weeks turned into seven months, ultimately growing from clubs - breaking the attendance record at New York's Ritz - to playing 15,000 seat amphitheatres in other cities. "It was phenomenal, especially since I didn't even have a new album to promote".

In 1994, Peter released his self-titled studio album on Relativity Records, hit the road to support it and recorded 1995's release 'Frampton Comes Alive II', along with band members Bob Mayo on keyboards, guitar and vocals, John Regan on bass, and John Robinson on drums. In 1997, he played on Bill Wyman's CD, 'The Rhythm Kings: Struttin' Our Stuff' and he and Wyman played together in Europe to promote the CD along with Gary Brooker, Albert Lee, Georgie Fame and Beverly Skeets. Two tours with Ringo Starr's All-Starr Band followed in 1997 and 1998, while in 1998 he also toured the US with Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Frampton, who recently appeared on the Simpsons as himself, has recorded two songs for the upcoming Walt Disney Records project 'Tigger Mania' and is currently writing music for and acting in the new Cameron Crowe movie 'Almost'.

Frampton reflects that "To me now, success has a different meaning than before. I've been there, done that, and I'm very proud and grateful for the success, but it started off as my hobby - music, playing guitar - and it always will be, no matter what. So I will just be doing things that I wanna do, as always, and if people pick up on it, that's wonderful; if they don't, then I'm still enjoying myself". As is patently obvious on 'Live In Detroit', a fantastic new album chock full of classic Frampton rock songs from across the entire range of his long and illustrious career.

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