

# The Story of *Chef McJaye*

*Chef McJaye* is **Jeffrey McFarland-Johnson**, a multi-faceted musician

living in Napa, California since 1989. For the past three decades Jeffrey has performed throughout the Napa Valley playing his cello for numerous engagements when called upon. However, he has recently embarked in a new direction of performance playing song compositions that he has written since 1975, the bulk of which were written during a period of composition between 1981-1983. The thirty-five songs he penned then were always kept in storage until recently when Jeffrey decided to pull them out and expose them to public scrutiny. The topics of these songs cover a wide variety of scenarios, but they all have to do with the human condition and existing in the world we live in. They are evergreen, meaning that they still reflect powerful statements even though they were written decades ago.

In presenting these songs to the wine country, Mr. McFarland-Johnson imagined a kitchen of musical “chefs” cooking up a sonic meal for their hungry guests and presenting these songs in courses programmed in a pre-designed menu order. Thus, the name ***Chef McJaye’s HOT Kitchen!*** with stage names for each instrumental player: *Chef McJaye* (vocals, rhythm guitar), *Chef Ivory* (keyboards), *Chef Leed* (lead guitar), *Chef Bouillabaisse* (bass), *Chef Beet* (beatboxer), and *Chef Perqué* (drums), all wearing chef attire during their performance.

Mr. McFarland-Johnson is influenced by J.S. Bach, Jimi Hendrix, Frank Zappa, John Coltrane, Tom Jobim, Bob Marley, and many other important musicians. However, a vaudeville style of entertainment is an important element of this presentation in reflecting the many facets of the Napa Valley, its people, and the cultural influences which shape this community that draws the world’s attention to it. Therefore, Jeffrey has added a number of songs which the lyrics have been changed to reflect the Napa Valley:

*The Girl With Pinot Noir, Italian From Pope Valley, I Sip D’Vine, A Perfect Day In The Napa Valley, Summer Wine, and Napa Valley Day.*

It is this tongue-in-cheek premise which pervades throughout a ***Chef McJaye’s HOT Kitchen!*** performance that gives this group a unique invitation for an audience to enjoy the fruits of the Napa Valley presented in song.

# *Chef McJaye Program*

## Reduced Menu

CHIKA LAMA WALY - SO. AFRICAN

\*A PERFECT DAY IN THE NAPA VALLEY - JMJ (FUNK)

GIRL WITH PINOT NOIR - JOBIM/JMJ (SAMBA)

\*HAVE A PIECE OF ME - JMJ (ROCK)

\*MATZO BALI BALLET - JMJ (BALLAD)

\*IF YOU THINK IT'S OKAY/THE SENSATION - JMJ (ROCK)

WILLIE THE PIMP VARIATIONS - ZAPPA/JMJ (ROCK)

KOTCH - JAMAICAN

\*IT WAS THE COLD THAT KILLED THE DINOSAUR - JMJ (REGGAE)

\*HEY HEY ROCKIN' IN MY ROLLING SHOES - JMJ (ROCK)

\*HER MAJESTY ON MY MIND - JMJ (LATIN)

\*NAPA VALLEY DAY - JMJ (BLUES SHUFFLE)

\*FREEDOM'S JUST A FANTASY - JMJ (ROCK)

\*HAPPY BIRTHDAY - JMJ (SAD SLOW BLUES)

\*CAMELS - JMJ (BOP)

\*THE BALLAD OF HENRY MAC MCHENRY - JMJ (50S ROCK BLUES)

I SIP D'VINE - JOHNNY CASH/JMJ (COUNTRY)

SUMMER WINE - GERSHWIN/JMJ (BLUES SHUFFLE)

AMERICA DRINKS AND GOES HOME - ZAPPA (BALLAD)

\*COMPOSED BY JMJ