

## **A group effort: Larry Carlton enjoys his role in Fourplay**

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Larry Carlton's glittering resume includes recording sessions with hundreds of artists, including such immortals as Sammy Davis Jr., Quincy Jones, Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, John Lennon and Jerry Garcia.

In addition, he has composed everything from Grammy-winning songs to Ford Motor Co. commercial jingles. As a solo artist, the venerated guitarist's CDs regularly hit the jazz charts, and he is a headline attraction around the world.

So, Carlton certainly doesn't need Fourplay to justify his musical existence. But that hasn't kept him from periodically recording and touring with the contemporary-jazz supergroup, which checks in tomorrow at Trump Marina.

"Being a member of Fourplay is a very prestigious thing in my life," says Carlton, 56, about the quartet, which also includes keyboardist Bob James, bassist Nathan East and drummer Harvey Mason. "To get together every two years or so with these three world-class musicians, who are also real gentlemen, is such a bonus."

He says gigging with such a stellar musician as James, whose credits are on a par with those of Carlton, offers him the rare opportunity to be a supporting player rather than the sole instrumental star in a band.

"I don't get to do that because I'm always the frontman," he explains. "My steady recording-sideman career (ended) 20 years ago. To get to try to be a consummate sideman when not playing my solos is a great challenge."

Carlton, whose solo on Steely Dan's "Kid Charlemagne" was hailed by Rolling Stone magazine as one of the three best rock guitar sequences of all time, is not a Fourplay charter member. He replaced co-founder Lee Ritenour in 1998. Since then, the unit has issued five albums, including the most recent effort, "Journey," which was released in June.

# LARRY CARLTON

At the current tour's conclusion, Carlton and his band mates go their separate ways until sometime in 2006, when they'll convene for the recording of the band's next CD and another tour.

In the interim, Carlton will record and travel on his own. And while it's difficult to imagine there's anything Carlton has yet to accomplish in music, there is at least one fantasy he still harbors.

"I would like to play a song or two with (legendary jazz pianist) McCoy Tyner," he admits. "He was part of the John Coltrane Quartet that I discovered at age 14. I'd be intimidated and humbled to play a couple of songs onstage with him."