

## Marcus Miller Press Release

The highly anticipated, genre defying new album from Marcus Miller, *Laid Black* is due to be released June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. After waiting three years since his last album, *Afrodeezia*, Miller brings his journey home where we find Miller incorporating current, urban elements into his music. Miller says: “Afrodeezia was like a musical voyage through my history. I followed the journey of my ancestors by collaborating with musicians along the African Slave route – musicians from West Africa, North Africa, South America and the Caribbean. With *Laid Black*, I decided to bring the music right up to the present - using elements from what’s happening in urban music today. So you’ll hear hip-hop, trap, soul, funk, R&B AND jazz on this album. The music is calm but also powerful and funky, drawing on the black musical experience. *Laid Black*.”

Miller recorded most of the tracks with his band in a New York studio and also recruited guest artists Trombone Shorty, Kirk Whalum, Take Six, Jonathan Butler and Selah Sue. Of his band, Miller says: “My guys are incredibly talented. They play everything from bebop to hip-hop. All of the special guests I called have the same vision about jazz, which made it possible to create this mix of music. Oh and if you like bass, there’s plenty of serious bass work on this album too!”

Anyone who has listened to Miller’s music or experienced his concerts live knows that they are in for quite a treat. Miller’s powerful, jazz/funk bass playing is out in full force with this album – pushing boundaries and taking jazz to new levels. Miller, along with his incredible band of young musicians, will be sure to excite, challenge and transport audiences.

Miller has one of the most enviable and expansive musical careers in the industry. He is a two-time Grammy award winner, (U.S.), winner of the 2013 Edison Award for Lifetime Achievement In Jazz (Holland), winner of the 2010 Victoire du Jazz (France) and in 2013, was appointed a UNESCO Artist For Peace. Born and raised in New York to a musical family (legendary jazz pianist Wynton Kelly is a cousin), Miller’s characteristic bass sound can be heard on a limitless catalog of hits from Bill Withers’ “Just The Two Of Us”, to Luther Vandross’ “Never Too Much”, to songs from Chaka Khan, Herbie Hancock, Eric Clapton, Aretha Franklin, George Benson, Elton John and Bryan Ferry to name a few. With his distinctive style - a unique combination of funk, groove, soul and pure technical skills - Miller has been referred to as one of the most significant bass players in jazz, R & B, fusion and soul.

Miller’s very rich resume of outstanding collaborations include a 15-year song-writing and production partnership with Luther Vandross and artists as varied and talented as David Sanborn, Roberta Flack, Aretha Franklin, Al Jarreau and Wayne Shorter. Most notable, after several years of touring in Miles Davis’ band in his early 20’s, Miller composed, produced and arranged the ground-breaking album and title song *Tutu*, making Miller the last primary collaborator for this jazz legend. *Tutu* went on to win two Grammy awards and is widely considered to be one of the definitive Miles Davis albums of our time.

Miller has an endless list of film and television credits to his name. Most recently, he composed the music for the Oscar nominated film “Marshall” (2017) directed by Reginald Hudlin and starring Chadwick Boseman as a young Thurgood Marshall and Emmy-award-winning actor Sterling Brown. Marcus composed the soundtrack to the now classic sitcom, “Everybody Hates Chris”, created by Chris Rock.

Miller broadcasts two weekly radio shows, “MillerTime” on SiriusXM which airs on Sunday evenings and Transatlantic Jazz With Marcus Miller which broadcasts each Wednesday in the U.K.

Miller is also the official host of several sold-out jazz cruises each year, put on by Entertainment Cruise Productions.

Miller has a global tour planned behind the release of *Laid Black* with concerts scheduled worldwide.