

Arthur Barrow

Composer, performer, and producer
North Texas alumnus and bassist for Frank Zappa



Born in San Antonio, Texas in 1952, Arthur Barrow played electric guitar throughout junior and senior high school and later studied classical organ. Beginning in 1971, he studied composition and organ at North Texas, where he worked with Merrill Ellis and spent many hours learning about analog synthesis on the Moog synthesizer at the Electronic Music Center. While at North Texas, he began to play electric bass, which would later prove to have a profound impact on his professional career. Upon graduation in 1975, Barrow moved to Los Angeles to become a freelance musician, working with such artists as The Doors (The album American Prayer), Don Preston, and Bruce Fowler (their band Loose Connection), before auditioning for Frank Zappa in the summer of 1978. He was a member of Zappa's band from 1978 through 1980, playing bass, guitar, and keyboards and running band rehearsals (the "clonemiester chair") on about a dozen albums and four tours. Upon leaving the band, Barrow collaborated and toured with Robby Krieger (of the Doors) and began working with Giorgio Moroder on a series of albums and film sound tracks, including "Scarface" and "Topgun." He has worked as keyboardist, programmer, bassist, and arranger for a wide range of artists including Joe Cocker, Diana Ross, Billy Idol, Berlin, The Motels, and many others. In 1985, Barrow opened his own studio in the Mar Vista district of Los Angeles, where he continues to produce albums and compose soundtracks for film and television. He has released four solo projects to date. His most recent release is by his free improv group, the Mar Vista Philharmonic (with Vinnie Colaiuta, Tommy Mars, Bruce and Walt Fowler, Kurt McGettrick, and Larry Klimas) called "No Forest Fire" on Hot Club Records. Upcoming is a new album with Robby Krieger.

Monday, April 20:

11:00am "North Texas and Beyond..." — Music Now presentation

1:00pm "Under the Hood at Joe's Garage" — presentation for The Music of Frank Zappa class

Wednesday, April 22:

1:00pm "Clinic with the Clonemiester" — featuring Zappa tunes performed by Arthur Barrow and students in The Music of Frank Zappa class

All events will be held in the **Merrill Ellis Intermedia Theater (MU 1001)**, and are free and open to the public.