

## Paul Burch - Bio

Paul Burch was born in Washington, DC and at the age of six his family moved to the Arthur Godfrey Farm in Virginia, where they stayed till he was 11. As he recalled recently *"I was born to a family of poets, writers, painters, judges and race horse trainers from around the D.C. area. The farm was a place that was known enough in the art community that musicians would come out to get away from the city when they were in town to play. Les McCann, the jazz pianist, was a frequent visitor and would sit with me at the house piano and would also accompany me on the drums, my first instrument."* Burch had begun playing drums at nine years of age. *"Linda Ronstadt also came out to the farm around the time of her **"Prisoner in Disguise"** album. The house itself and the land around it was idyllic in every way-- barns, horses, land, creeks, snakes, the occasional coyote, tall pine trees, cardinals, jay-birds, and several broken down work shacks and garages where I pretended to carry on as a singer with a handy badminton racket."* The Burch clan subsequently moved to Oxford, Mississippi and as a teenager Burch, graduated to guitar and harmonica. He also start to write songs, much influenced by the folk/country music of the early decades of the twentieth century. After attending Purdue University in Indiana, Paul travelled to the East coast and began playing music in the folk clubs in Cambridge, Massachusetts [Boston] and New York's Greenwich Village. In Cambridge, Burch joined the Bag Boys, one of New England's longest running folk and country bands with whom he experienced his first taste of recording.

In 1994 Paul relocated to Nashville, and with steel guitarist Paul Niehaus (Lambchop) formed **The WPA Ballclub** soon afterwards. A residency at Tootsie's Orchid Lounge saw the band develop a hard country sound that leant heavily on the traditions of the genre. Their 1996 debut album was titled, **"Pan-American Flash"** followed a year later by **"Wire To Wire."** **"Blue Notes,"** co-produced by Burch and WPA guitarist George Bradfute, was released by Merge Records last year. His latest creation **"Last Of My Kind"** draws inspiration from Tony Earley's book **"Jim The Boy."** He has also appeared on albums by Vic Chesnutt and Josh Rouse.

Formed in 1986 as Poster Child, they changed their name to Lambchop in 1993 after Warner Bros. act *PosterChildren* threatened to sue them. Since their first release in 1994, Lambchop – a loose aggregation of between seven and fourteen players - have released five albums, a large quantity of singles and EP's, while also appeareing on countless compilation discs. Burch joined the band in 1995, and appeared on their 1996 EP **"Hank."** Since then he has appeared on their Merge Records albums - **"Thriller"** [1997], **"What Another Man Spills"** [1998], **"Nixon"** [2000] and **"Tools In The Dryer : A Rarities Compilation"** [2000].

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