

Rust belt blues shouter and guitar slinger Larry McCray was born in 1960 in Magnolia, Ark., about 12 miles from the Louisiana line. He spent his early years on a farm as the second youngest of nine siblings. After trying his hand at saxophone in school, his older (and only) sister, Clara, introduced Larry to the guitar and the transformative music of the three Kings of the blues (B.B., Freddie and Albert).

By the late '80s, Larry had attracted the attention of Virgin Records executive John Wooler, who had recently started a subsidiary label, Point Blank Records, featuring blues, soul and Americana artists. He signed Larry McCray as his first artist. Larry's debut album, *Ambition*—aptly named as it fused elements of blues, rock, and soul to create a contemporary blues sound—was recorded in a friend's Detroit basement studio and released in 1990 to critical acclaim.

Throughout the 1990s, Larry continued to help define blues rock by collaborating with artists such as labelmate and fellow guitarist, Albert Collins, and releasing the much more slickly produced *Delta Hurricane* in 1993 (produced by British blues maven Mike Vernon), *Meet Me at the Lake* in 1996 and *Born to Play the Blues* in 1998.

Over the past three decades of nonstop touring and recording, Larry has played and shared the stage with such blues greats as *BB King*, *Buddy Guy*, *Albert King*, *John Mayall*, *Johnny Winter*, *Robert Cray*, *Keb Mo*, *Jimmie Vaughan*, *Kenny Wayne Shepherd* and *Joe Bonamassa*, as well as rock legends the *Allman Brothers*, *Phil Lesh*, *Jonny Lang*, *Joe Walsh*, *Levon Helm*, *Chris Robinson*, *Dickey Betts*, and countless others.

In 2021, *Blues Without You*, Larry's latest, a 12-track release was recorded on famed blues rock guitarist Bonamassa's Keeping the Blues Alive nonprofit label with producer Josh Smith, a partnership that has also spawned a video (for the upcoming single, "Arkansas") and a documentary.

"Larry's still a relatively young man, with a lot to say, and the world needs to know who he is. It's the perfect time to have a rebirth of his music," Bonamassa says. "He knows he's a badass, he just needs to be reassured and reassure himself that he can stand up there with the greats."