

# Shanachie

## Chart-Topping Saxophonist/Songwriter Euge Groove Returns with New Chart Bound Recording *Sunday Morning*

### *Highly Anticipated Shanachie Debut Marks Euge Groove's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Solo Artist*

"It's the humbling that really defines us. For I truly believe that our own humility is what 'keeps it real,'" confides Euge Groove. The prolific and down to earth saxophonist/songwriter, whose own records have resulted in a string of #1 hits and whose credits include work with everyone from Tina Turner, Bonnie Raitt and the Eurythmics to Tower of Power, The Gap Band and Joe Cocker, is truly an artist who follows not only his head but his heart. On ***Sunday Morning***, Euge Groove's Shanachie debut and sixth recording as a leader, he bears it all with a shining collection of ten originals that once again join him with acclaimed producer Paul Brown (George Benson, Luther Vandross, Patti Austin). ***Sunday Morning*** was written during a four month European tour with Tina Turner. "I had toured Europe many times in the past, but this was a long one for sure. Emotionally I was in a new place," explains Euge Groove. "I had done 37 shows in the states with Tina in the fall of '08 and another 17 of my own on the days off. I had 2 weeks off for Christmas, worked New Year's with my band, took my wife to the Caribbean for a work/vacation trip, then we parted ways at Miami airport. She went home to LA, and I left for Germany. That's when it all hit me. I realized I wasn't going to see home for 4 months. Feeling like a kindergartener on the first day of school, It was a very emotional time for me. I finally found my relief by drowning myself in my writing. I really missed Sunday mornings back home the most, so that's where the title comes from. It's the most peaceful time there is. It's laid back, very spiritual and reflective. It's the way I get energy to start the new week."

As Euge Groove gets ready to kick off his 10<sup>th</sup> year as a solo artist, it is only fitting that he is releasing his best and most personal musical statement to date. Picking up where he left off with 2007's ***Born 2 Groove*** the songs on ***Sunday Morning*** further explore Euge Groove's gospel roots along with his trademark fusion of jazz, soul, R&B and funk. The saxophonist's recording approach to ***Sunday Morning*** centered around his vision to record with a live rhythm section and to forgo the type of computer programming he has used in previous productions. The result is a refreshingly organic feel that permeates the entire album. Highlights on the new CD include the uplifting "Get Ready" (co-written with pianist Joel Campbell) which perfectly sets the tone for the album's overall feel good vibes. Euge Groove creates swinging timeless melodies on songs like "As You Like It," the free-flowing and groove happy "All For You" and the joyous title track (which Euge Groove co-wrote with Michael Ripoli and De Yon Dobson). Struttin' his funkier side and cutting loose on songs like "Say My Name," "Babylon" and "On Your Knees" Euge Groove aptly pays tribute to his Tower of Power days. ***Sunday Morning*** also showcases his tender and pensive side with the lyrical and stunningly beautiful composition "The Gospel Truth" featuring pianist Tracy Carter and strings by Phillippe Saisse, the sensuous "Tenderly," co-written by Joel Campbell and reminiscent of the Eden Ahbez classic "Nature Boy" and the Quiet storm ballad "Yes," featuring vocalist Dax Reynosa, who co-wrote the song along with Paul Brown and Tim Stewart.

Born Steven Eugene **Grove** in and Hagerstown, Maryland, Euge Groove grew up in a musical home. His mother played piano and taught the Cherub choir at Christ Lutheran Church and he began his own musical pursuits at the age of seven when he began playing the piano adding the saxophone at nine.

As his playing reflects today, Euge Groove developed diverse musical tastes. “I’ve listened to everyone from Grover (Washington Jr.) and (David) Sanborn to (Charlie) Parker and (John) Coltrane as well as (Michael) Brecker, (Stan) Getz, King Curtis, Junior Walker, Richard Elliott and Kirk Whalum. The thing is, the more mature we become, and the more those influences fuse into something new. I always listened to a lot of R&B growing up, fuse that with pop music, then with the gospel music I’ve been listening to, and again. Hopefully all of these influences come through in my music and I am able to create my own unique expression.”

A graduate of the University of Miami’s School of Music, Euge Groove cites David Sanborn as the catalyst that inspired him to pursue playing pop music. Euge launched his professional career in Miami in the mid 80s, playing in salsa bands, top 40 club bands and doing the occasional high profile session date like Exposé’s “Seasons Change,” a #1 Billboard AC hit. Not long after he moved to L.A. in 1987, he wrote a track for Richard Elliot’s *The Power of Suggestion* album, and Elliot recommended Euge to take over his spot in Tower of Power. Euge toured with TOP for four years, including a year backing Huey Lewis & The News. His resume grew from there to include recording, touring or performing stints with Joe Cocker, Eurythmics, The Gap Band, Elton John, Bonnie Raitt, Aaron Neville and Richard Marx. Marx included Euge’s horn on “Keep Coming Back,” a #1 AC hit duet he recorded with Luther Vandross.

In 1999, coming off the road after two years of touring with popular Italian singer Eros Ramazzotti and Joe Cocker, the saxophonist paved the way for his eventual solo stardom by recording some tracks of his own. Without a record label to distribute the music, he put his songs on the now-defunct MP3.com website, dubbing himself “Euge Groove”—a corruption of “Eugene Grove”—in an effort to distinguish himself from the thousands of other musicians looking to attract the cyber audience. Downloading started almost immediately, and Euge was soon topping the MP3.com jazz chart. He signed soon thereafter with Warner Bros. “Vinyl,” his first single from his self-titled Warner Bros. debut, set a record by spending 27 weeks on the R&R charts, eventually ranking at #24 for the year. *Play Date* kept the trend going with two more #1 radio hits, “Slam Dunk” and “Rewind.” In 2004, Euge Groove’s Narada debut *Livin’ Large* spent 68 weeks on the Billboard charts, debuted at #4 and came in at #25 overall for 2004. “Livin’ Large,” the single, was the #5 most played song for 2004 on the R&R singles chart. “XXL” spent 36 weeks on the radio chart. *Just Feels Right* followed in 2005 and it’s first single “Get Em Goin’,” the first single to radio, “Get Em Goin’” was #1 for two months. *Born 2 Groove* had 4 chart topping singles, of which, three went to #1 – “Born 2 Groove” “Religify” and “Mr. Groove.”

Euge Groove says “I have learned and grown a lot of over the past year and I hope this can be heard on Sunday Morning. All of the songs reveal a bit about where I was personally at that moment. I hope when people hear the music they can feel my emotional connection with these songs.”

**Street Date: October 27, 2009**

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