

= Steve Lukather =

Steven Lee Lukather (born October 21 , 1957) is an American guitarist , singer , songwriter , arranger and record producer , best known for his work with the rock band Toto . A prolific session musician , Lukather has recorded guitar tracks for more than 1 @, @ 500 albums representing a broad array of artists and genres . He has also contributed to albums and hit singles as a songwriter , arranger and producer . Lukather has released seven solo albums , the latest of which , Transition , was released in January 2013 .

In 1976 , when Lukather was nineteen years old , he was invited by his high school friends David Paich and the Porcaro brothers Steve and Jeff to join them in forming their band , Toto . He has been a member of the band ever since it began , and is still fully contributing to their album composition and touring . Lukather 's reputation as a guitarist and his association with Paich and Jeff Porcaro , who also became established artists , allowed him to secure a solid flow of session work in the 1970s and 1980s . Lukather has been nominated for twelve Grammy Awards , and has won five . While his work with Toto was predominantly based on pop rock music and his solo work ventures into progressive rock and hard rock , many of Lukather 's side @-@ projects are focused on jazz fusion . He held a long @-@ time collaboration with jazz guitarist Larry Carlton that produced a Grammy @-@ winning live album , and he was a member of the jazz fusion band Los Lobos , a collaboration of notable session musicians .

Influenced by such blues @-@ rock guitarists as Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page , and such jazz fusion players as Al Di Meola and Frank Gambale , Lukather is known for a " melodic and intense " playing style . He is also recognized for his efficiency in the studio , often recording tracks in one take using minimal sound processing . While he once used many guitar effects in the studio and on stage , he now frequently disparages such practice , and instead advocates clean tones and minimal studio processing . Lukather plays primarily a signature electric guitar manufactured by Ernie Ball Music Man bearing his nickname , Luke . He also plays Yamaha and Ovation Adamas series acoustic ? electric guitars .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Steven Lee Lukather was born on October 21 , 1957 , in San Fernando Valley , California . In an interview with online publication Guitarhoo ! he said : " I had a music teacher in Grammar school that made me play the violin . It was 1965 . I had been playing guitar for a year , (after the Beatles changed our lives) and they had NO use for a guitar player . " He then played keyboards and drums , and then taught himself how to play the guitar starting at age seven , when his father bought him a Kay acoustic guitar and a copy of the Beatles album Meet the Beatles . Lukather has said that the album " changed his life " and that he was greatly influenced by the guitar playing of George Harrison in particular .

In high school , Lukather met David Paich and the Porcaro brothers (Jeff , Steve , and Mike) , all of whom eventually became members of Toto . Lukather , who had been a self @-@ taught musician , began taking guitar lessons from Jimmy Wyble . With Wyble , Lukather expanded his knowledge of wider aspects of music , including orchestration . It was during this period in the early 1970s that Lukather became interested in the idea of becoming a session musician , a vocation that provided opportunities to play with a variety of famous musicians .

Jeff Porcaro , who had been playing drums with Steely Dan since 1973 , became a mentor to Lukather and furthered his interest in session work . Lukather 's first job in the music industry was studio work with Boz Scaggs , after which Paich and Jeff Porcaro ? who had become prominent session musicians in their own right ? asked Lukather to join them in forming Toto in 1976 along with Bobby Kimball , David Hungate , and Steve Porcaro .

== = Toto = = =

Lukather is the original lead guitarist for Toto , serving in that capacity for the band 's entire history , as well as a lead and backing vocalist and composer . Lukather won three of his five Grammy Awards for work with Toto , twice as an artist and once as a producer . David Paich led the band 's songwriting efforts during the development of 1978 's Toto ? he penned all but two of the album 's tracks , including all four of its singles . Lukather also credits Jeff Porcaro for his leadership within the band during that period . However , Lukather 's role in Toto evolved over time owing to the changing needs of the band . He contributed songwriting to Toto albums starting with the eponymous lead track on 1979 's Hydra . Miles Davis was featured on the song Don 't Stop Me Now , the last track of 1986 's Fahrenheit album . After the session , he invited Lukather to join his band , but Lukather was already committed to the upcoming Toto tour . In August 1992 , Jeff Porcaro collapsed while doing yard work at home and subsequently died of heart failure . The death profoundly affected Toto and Lukather in particular , who considered Porcaro a mentor . Lukather felt that he needed to step up and make sure the band kept going . Thus , he began taking more of a leadership role .

Toto went through several lead vocalists over the years , including Kimball , Fergie Frederiksen , and Joseph Williams . After the 1990 dismissal of their fourth vocalist , Jean @-@ Michel Byron , Toto was without a lead singer until around 1997 ; Lukather assumed most of the vocal duties for the band during that time . He performed lead vocals for every track on 1992 's Kingdom of Desire and 1995 's Tambu except for two instrumental tracks . The Tambu single " I Will Remember " , co @-@ written by Lukather and Stan Lynch , reached number 64 on UK charts . Some Tambu reviewers contrasted Lukather 's vocals with those of former singers Kimball and Williams (and indeed , heavily criticized the entire album) , some concert reviewers noted that he struggled vocally on certain songs , and a number of backup singers and guest vocalists accompanied the band 's live shows during that period . It was not until Toto brought back former lead singers Joseph Williams and Bobby Kimball to collaborate on 1998 's Toto XX that Lukather returned to predominantly backup vocals .

Lukather 's songwriting contributions grew from a smattering of tracks on early Toto albums to almost every track starting in the late 1980s . He wrote very few of Toto 's songs by himself , an exception being the hit single " I Won 't Hold You Back " from Toto IV . Lukather has said that writing lyrics is not one of his strengths . Thus , he collaborated with other band members to complete song ideas and make them into viable album tracks . Lukather contributed to all of the songs on Toto 's 2006 album Falling in Between .

By 2008 , Lukather was the only remaining original Toto member still performing with the band (Kimball was also in the band at the time , but had earlier been absent from it for a long period of time , whereas Lukather has been with Toto since its formation) . In June of the same year , Lukather decided to leave Toto . This decision directly led to the official dissolution of the band . In a 2011 interview discussing his career with Toto , Lukather indicated that the band had evolved too far from its original incarnation and that he was dealing with the physical and mental toll of recording and performing . In February 2010 , the band announced that they would reunite to support Toto bassist Mike Porcaro , who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig 's disease . They continued to tour on a limited basis in 2011 and 2012 .

Although Lukather indicated in April 2011 that the band would not record any further material , Toto announced a heavy international tour schedule and new studio album in March 2014 . In March 2015 Toto XIV was released .

== = Session work = = =

Lukather achieved notability in the 1970s and 1980s as one of the most sought @-@ after session guitarists in Los Angeles , playing with a wide range of artists from Aretha Franklin to Warren Zevon . He has performed on over 1 @, @ 500 records spanning 36 years . Music journalist Jude Gold noted , " It 's hard to name a guitarist who has had a more prolific and fulfilling career than Steve

Lukather . " Lukather credits fellow Toto members David Paich and Jeff Porcaro for getting him exposure in the industry ? although he lamented in an April 2011 interview that opportunities for session musicians have curtailed in recent years : " There is no ' session guy ' thing any more ? not like it was . It 's not like the old days when I was doing 25 sessions a week . All the studios are gone . The budgets are gone . The record companies are all gone . " His own output as a session musician has slowed along with the rest of the industry ? as of 2009 , Lukather stated he was only doing a few sessions a year .

Named by Gibson Guitar Corporation as one of the top 10 session guitarists of all time , Lukather has performed on many notable tracks . He performed the guitar solo for Olivia Newton @-@ John 's popular 1981 single " Physical " , which was Billboard 's number 1 single of the 1980s . Other notable session performances include Earth , Wind & Fire 's Faces album soloing on the tracks " Back On the Road " and " You Went Away " , Michael Jackson 's " Beat It " , two tracks from the Lionel Richie album Can 't Slow Down , and the Richard Marx album Repeat Offender . Lukather and Jeff Porcaro were heavily involved in the recording of virtually all of Michael Jackson 's Thriller . In addition to recording guitar tracks , Lukather has also written or produced music for Lionel Richie , Richard Marx , Chicago , Donna Summer , and The Tubes . He won a Grammy award in 1982 for the George Benson song " Turn Your Love Around " .

= = = Solo albums = = =

Lukather has released six solo studio albums : Lukather (1989) , Candyman (1994) , Luke (1997) , Santamental (2003) , Ever Changing Times (2008) , and All 's Well That Ends Well (2010) . In December 2011 , he began work on his seventh , Transition , a collaboration with C. J. Vanston featuring musicians Chad Smith , Gregg Bissonette , Leland Sklar , and others . The album was released January 21 , 2013 .

= = = = 1989 ? 1997 : Lukather , Candyman , and Luke = = = =

The 1989 album Lukather came about after Toto had been recording and playing for 11 years , and the consensus among the band members was to take a break . As Lukather had written a number of songs that did not appear on Toto albums , he decided to pursue a solo album , with the intention of presenting a dimension of his music that fans would be unfamiliar with . He collaborated with many notable musicians , including Eddie Van Halen , Richard Marx , Jan Hammer , Steve Stevens , and fellow Toto members Jeff Porcaro and David Paich . Lukather has said that the album was produced very simply , and that a lot of ambient studio noise ? counting off on various tracks , for instance ? is audible on it . He also credits bands Pink Floyd , Cream , Led Zeppelin , and guitarists Jimi Hendrix , David Gilmour , Jeff Beck , and Eric Clapton as influences on the album . The single " Swear Your Love " came from the album .

Candyman , recorded and mastered from March 1993 through November 1993 , was a collaboration of musicians who were for the most part also in Lukather 's band Los Lobotomys . Toto familiars Simon Phillips and David Paich participated as well as David Garfield , John Peña , Chris Trujillo , Lenny Castro , Larry Klimas , Fee Waybill , Richard Page , and Paul Rodgers . Lukather recorded the album in mostly live takes with little overdubbing . Some international fans were confused about whether Candyman was a Steve Lukather album or a Los Lobotomys album . The Japanese and US releases of Candyman were under the Los Lobotomys name rather than Lukather 's ; the Japanese release also featured a version of the Hendrix song " Red House " . The European release of Candyman was credited to Lukather alone . Additionally , the touring band for the album was sometimes introduced as " Steve Lukather and Los Lobotomys " and sometimes as just " Los Lobotomys " . The song " Borrowed Time " was released as a single in Europe and included " Red House " as a B @-@ side .

Lukather describes 1997 's Luke as a much different and more " introspective " album than his previous two solo efforts . The album is a concentrated collection of many of Lukather 's musical influences , and he deliberately let those influences come out on the album . Luke is an

experimental album , and like Candyman it was recorded mostly in live sessions with minimal overdubbing and processing afterwards . Luke also features instrumentation not heard on previous Lukather albums : pedal steel , harmonicas , Mellotrons , and experimental guitar , bass , and drum sounds . The US version of Luke includes a version of the Jeff Beck song " The Pump " . The song " Hate Everything About U " was released as a single .

===== 2003 : Santamental =====

Santamental , released in October 2003 , is a collaborative project featuring several prominent musicians such as guitarists Eddie Van Halen , Slash , Steve Vai , and drummer Gregg Bissonette . When Lukather 's record company , Bop City Records , approached him about recording a Christmas album , he responded with a quip about his suitability for the project . The company wanted him to do the record knowing he would approach the project with a unique angle and produce something different from the typical Christmas album . Lukather recruited keyboardist Jeff Babko and guitarist Larry Carlton , who Lukather had worked with previously , to help arrange the songs . The project was a challenge to Lukather , who had to be creative to turn the traditionally simple songs into something interesting for listeners without altering the fundamental structures . He said of the album , " But I never dreamt in a million years that I 'd do a Christmas record . "

The musicians Lukather chose for Santamental , most of whom were involved in the hard @-@ rock genre , lent a heavy feel to the album . Van Halen recorded guitar tracks for " Joy to the World " after not having been in the studio for some time but immediately made an impression on Lukather with his level of playing . Vai provided guitar work for " Carol of the Bells " along with Lukather 's son Trevor , then 14 years old . Slash , who recorded his part in one take , played on the Lukather / Stan Lynch composition " Broken Heart for Christmas " . Lukather spoke highly of Slash after the project , calling him the " Keith Richards of our generation " . Well @-@ known session guitarist Michael Landau played on the song " Look Out For Angels " , and there is a version of " Jingle Bells " featuring a big band and sung by Sammy Davis , Jr . Santamental was recorded in six days , after which Lukather proclaimed it " his first and last Christmas album " .

===== 2008 ? present : Ever Changing Times , All 's Well That Ends Well , and Transition =====

Ever Changing Times , released on February 22 , 2008 , is a collection of songs Lukather recorded in 2007 between Toto tours . The album contains contributions from fellow session musicians Bill Champlin , Abe Laboriel , Jr . , Leland Sklar , Steve Porcaro , and many others . Lukather 's son Trevor contributed as well . Joseph Williams provides backing vocals on five of the tracks . Lukather wrote the songs for the album in a hotel room with his son and a handful of other musicians , using basic equipment . His song @-@ writing philosophy is that if a song sounds good with only guitars and vocals , it will likely sound good after a full production . Lukather collaborated with Grammy Award @-@ winning engineer and producer Steve MacMillan on the project , with the goal of introducing some new methods and techniques into the recording process . Lukather described the final tracks as " perfectly imperfect " , preferring to record with the five @-@ piece backing band in one room and in one take . MacMillan encouraged Lukather to use " organic , vintage tones " . As a result , Lukather eschewed effects and played the guitar parts directly through tube amplifiers manufactured by Marshall , Vox , and some boutique brands . Lukather commented that MacMillan served as a valuable " second set of ears " in the studio , often encouraging him to keep parts that he normally would have discarded . As Toto had recently disbanded when Ever Changing Times was released , Lukather embarked on a solo tour to promote the album . The shows featured a mixture of songs from the album , songs written for other side projects , and " a few Toto obscurities " .

Lukather 's sixth studio album , All 's Well That Ends Well , was released on October 11 , 2010 , in Europe and Japan , and November 16 as a digital download worldwide . The material was written predominantly in collaboration with longtime associate C. J. Vanston , and the album features stalwart musicians from Lukather 's touring band . Songwriter Randy Goodrum , who has

collaborated with Lukather many times over the years including on the 1986 Toto single " I 'll Be over You " , contributes to the track " Brody 's " . All 's Well That Ends Well draws from Lukather 's personal experiences in the two years since Ever Changing Times . Critic Arlene Weiss noted that the album features three distinct flavors of music : one that " bares [Lukather 's] soul and emotional heartache " , one that pans elements of popular culture like TMZ.com , and one that expresses optimism and enthusiasm about the future . While Lukather focused on instrumental writing and production on previous albums but collaborated with lyricists , he wrote much of the lyrics for All 's Well That Ends Well himself . Lukather describes the album as being a " real " and " honest " reflection of the period between 2008 and 2010 , when he experienced difficulties within his private life .

In December 2011 , Lukather announced the beginning of work on Transition . The album was produced with songwriter and record producer C.J. Vanston and involved musicians Chad Smith , Gregg Bissonette , Leland Sklar , Steve Weingart , and others . Throughout 2012 , Lukather released notes and news of the album development through his web site . The title was announced on October 12 , 2012 . The album was released January 21 , 2013 .

= = = Side projects = = =

When not working with Toto , Lukather has participated in numerous side projects including playing with jazz fusion band Los Lobotomys and with other session musicians , and touring with Larry Carlton , Joe Satriani , Steve Vai , and others .

Lukather was a long @-@ time member of the band Los Lobotomys , a collaboration of session musicians including jazz and be @-@ bop player David " Creatchy " Garfield and Toto drummer Jeff Porcaro , replaced after his death by Simon Phillips , who also replaced Porcaro in Toto . Los Lobotomys formed in the mid @-@ 1980s and played regular shows in the Los Angeles area , often inviting whatever session musicians happened to be available and in the area . They recorded an album under the Los Lobotomys name in 1989 , and the band was heavily involved in the recording of Lukather 's Candyman . Los Lobotomys recorded a live album in 2004 comprising several tracks from Candyman and from the 1989 album .

In 1998 , Lukather received an invitation to tour Japan with fellow guitarist Larry Carlton after Japanese promoters requested that Carlton 's annual tours each be different from the last . Lukather and Carlton exchanged some recorded material and decided that a collaboration would be interesting . Lukather was flattered by the invitation to tour with Carlton , citing him as his favorite guitarist . Lukather speaks highly of their stage efforts , although the two were admittedly outside their normal realm of work . He stated in an interview that " you can hear us having fun on the record ? you can hear the smiles on our faces . " After several shows , the duo realized that they should record their collaboration even if just for their own use . Guitarist and producer Steve Vai heard one of the subsequent recordings and expressed interest in releasing it under his Favored Nations label , also home to such artists as Eric Johnson and Dweezil Zappa . Vai and Lukather mixed and produced the recording , which is said to be a mixture of jazz , blues , and fusion music . The resulting album , No Substitutions : Live in Osaka , won a 2001 Grammy award for Best Pop Instrumental Album . Album reviewers described Lukather as having a heavier style than Carlton . Lukather and Carlton later did an international tour in support of the album .

In 2005 , Lukather won critical praise for his rendition of the Jimi Hendrix song " Little Wing " at a gala 90th birthday celebration for jazz guitarist Les Paul . Returning after a five @-@ year absence , the 2012 G3 Tour featured Lukather alongside Joe Satriani and Steve Vai .

In the autumn 2006 , Lukather contributed his cover @-@ version of the Michael Landau @-@ song " I 'm Buzzed " (originally from Landau 's Tales From The Bulge album) from a live recording of his side band project , El Grupo , to the album project Artists for Charity ? Guitarists 4 the Kids , produced by Slang Productions , to assist World Vision Canada in helping underprivileged kids in need .

In February 2012 , Ringo Starr announced that Lukather would be the guitarist in his All Starr Band for their summer tour . Lukather has been touring with that ensemble since that time , performing

three Toto songs (" Hold The Line , " " Rosanna , " and " Africa ") nightly .

Lukather periodically contributes material and expertise to instructional and educational enterprises . In 1985 , he released the instructional " Star Licks " guitar video featuring many of the guitar parts from the first five Toto studio albums . It was released on DVD in 2005 . The guitarist has also been participating in the Fermatta Master Class Series project , an educational cooperative organized by the Fermatta Music Academy in Mexico .

= = Musical style and equipment = =

Influenced by such blues @-@ rock guitarists as Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page , and such jazz fusion players as John McLaughlin , Al Di Meola and Frank Gambale , Lukather is known for a " melodic and intense " playing style . He has also cited Steely Dan as a major long @-@ time influence ? one that emerges prominently in later solo work such as All 's Well That Ends Well . Journalist Jude Gold notes that his vibrato is very pronounced and his " exaggerated wide bends " are distinctive and quickly recognizable . Well @-@ versed in music theory , Lukather can follow chord charts and changes in a way typical of jazz musicians ? this ability enhances his value as a session musician . In interviews , he has explained how he thinks of the guitar in a " chordal cluster " format , and not the typical " linear scale " format .

Lukather 's approach to engineering his sound in the studio is usually simple . He is not known for doing a large number of takes or for incorporating much overdubbing ? rather , he has a reputation for doing only single takes for many parts . He has said about this approach : " If a solo didn 't work ? either because I didn 't have the right sound , or because I wasn 't inspired at that moment ? I 'd just move on . A part either works or it doesn 't . You can 't batter it into submission , or force inspiration to save you . It 's always better to just surrender , and then come back later to give it a go with fresh ears . " Although he enjoys the technical mastery that is possible in the studio , Lukather prefers the dynamic of performing live on stage . He has stated that dynamics are the most important element of producing a recording with good sound quality .

Despite being known in the past for having an intricate set of effects units , Lukather now says he plays mostly free of such modifications after seeing some overdone commercial unit configurations named after him . Other than some delay , he has not used many effects in recent years . He has held a long association with Bob Bradshaw of Custom Audio Electronics , who designed and manufactured key elements of Lukather 's effects rack . Lukather was one of the few official endorsers of EMG pickups , having collaborated on his own Lukather signature " SL20 " pickup system , which is a single unit incorporating two single coils and an EMG 85 humbucker . The system has a single volume and tone knob , and a pickguard . In December 2012 , Lukather collaborated with DiMarzio pickups on a new set of signature pickups called " Transition . " He has been using these pickups in his Music @-@ Man Luke 3 guitar .

Lukather endorses Music Man guitars and has a signature model named " Luke " that incorporates his signature EMG pickup system . The guitar started out with only MusicMan specifications (including a Floyd Rose locking vibrato , later replaced with a vintage @-@ style fulcrum bridge) , but in 1998 , the manufacturer made several customizations to the model to better fit Lukather 's playing style . Music Man also produces a Ball Family Reserve Steve Lukather Model that features an alder body with a mahogany " tone block " inlaid under the pickups , capped with a figured maple top and transparent finish . In 2012 a new version of the guitar called the LIII was introduced with a 3 % larger but similarly contoured body , all @-@ rosewood neck and passive pickup options (dual humbucker or single single humbucker) combined with an active preamp and 12 db boost activated from a push / push tone pot . In 2013 Lukather changed to a roasted maple neck with a rosewood fret board , citing the exceptional stability of roasted maple while touring as a factor in his decision . As a result , the LIII specification and production was changed to match Lukather 's preference . Lukather has also been known to play Ibanez and Valley Arts guitars . His relationship with Ibanez and Valley Arts yielded an endorsement for a brief time in the 1980s with the release of the Ibanez Roadstar RS1010SL and Valley Arts Custom Pro Steve Lukather Signature guitars in 1984 ? 85 . He has played Ovation Adamas series acoustic ? electric guitars . Starting before his 2010 All 's

Well That Ends Well tour , Lukather began playing and endorsing Yamaha Studio Response Technology acoustic ? electric guitars .

Information about his current rig can be found on Lukather 's website which is kept up to date .

= = Discography = =

Solo

Lukather (1989)

Candyman (1994)

Luke (1997)

No Substitutions : Live in Osaka (2001)

Santamental (2003)

Ever Changing Times (2008)

All 's Well That Ends Well (2010)

Transition (2013)

With Toto

With Los Lobotomys

Los Lobotomys (1989)

= = Awards = =

1982 ? Grammy Award for Best R & B Song : Steve Lukather , Jay Graydon , Bill Champlin (for George Benson) ? " Turn Your Love Around "

1982 ? Grammy Award for Producer of the Year : Toto ? Toto IV

1982 ? Grammy Award for Album of the Year : Toto ? Toto IV

1982 ? Grammy Award for Record of the Year : Toto ? " Rosanna "

2002 ? Grammy Award for Best Pop Instrumental Album : Larry Carlton & Steve Lukather ? No Substitutions : Live in Osaka

2010 ? Eddy Christiani Award