



**William White** is an independent artist/musician/composer/performer born in Barbados, currently living and working in Switzerland. Independent in that for the past 10 years, he and his wife are running their label from home and released so far four albums here in Switzerland which three of them made it in the Top10 Swiss Album Charts. Three Albums have sold GOLD in Switzerland.

**William White** was born on the 15th of June 1972 on a small farm in the hills overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, on the Island of Barbados. Mom loved Beethoven ... Dad loved quiet... William loved to sing. It was the time when a ride through the country roads would be filled with music; Bob Marley and the Wailers booming at the rum shop on the corner, Marvin Gaye out of the window of the house a little further on, Sam Cooke, then Curtis Mayfield. The old folks were listening to Nat King Cole, Harry Belafonte, Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers, and a Church Congregation could get louder than anybody's HiFi. Music was everywhere and although he didn't quite understand what it meant yet, William was hooked ... Now the name William White is well known on the biggest stages in Switzerland (Montreux Jazz, Paléo Festival, Gurten festival, St-Gallen Openair, Gampel Openair, Greenfield Festival to name a few..) His own mix of reggae, funk, soul and folk has won him many fans and a solid radio status nationwide. His songs carry a message of love for music, and a yearning for peace.

The eight piece band has played stages in Switzerland as well as Germany, Austria, France, Holland and Italy.

***PRESS: "William White is considered an important and established Act in the Swiss music scene. With his melodious songs filled with strong messages - it's about love, freedom, justice and respect. As once Bob Dylan, Neil Young or Bob Marley, he strives to make the content of his music his priority, without sacrificing any quality. William White and his band are one of the best live acts in the country!"(Various Press)***

**Other Highlights:** William White's solo appearances as supporting act for Ben Harper in Geneva and Basel, Xavier Rudd in Zurich, Gabriel Rios in Paris and Amsterdam, Archive in Winterthur, John Butler Trio in Zurich, Shivaree in Zurich and recently Simple Minds BEA Expo Bern, or opening with his 8tet for Ziggy Marley in Lugano, Tessin. (We had to turn down a few opening Acts because of our own tours: Tracy Chapman, Bob Dylan and Counting Crows!) 2011 saw William White and his 8tet performed at the famous Paléo Festival, MAINSTAGE (23.07.11) and Rock Oz'Arènes (Mainstage).

## THE ALBUMS

**OPEN COUNTRY (2014)** was released on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March in Switzerland. Enters #2 the Swiss Album Charts and stays 2 weeks in the Top10... **Independently! So what exactly is Independent?** Independent means that for the past 10 years, William and his wife Galia have successfully released 3 GOLD Selling albums, 2 of which went top 10, from their living room so to speak. With this 4th album "Open Country" they Celebrate 10 years of independent music and again success... **Not bad for home grown...**

The double CD features not only the 10 track album with grooves recorded in Jamaica. There is also a live CD, a bootleg off the 2012 Freedom tour with "The Emergency". "A concert is a different story" says William, "It's very different from the album... and we know we also have fans who really like it live...**Open Country is now the 3rd top 10 album in a row** for the independent label William White. "Yes. It is rewarding." Says Galia when asked, but don't be misled, "It's been a really exhausting year," they both shake their heads and laugh. But it's been worth it.

**Open Country** is collaboration between **William White, Devon Bradshaw (former bassist of Burning Spear)** and **Ian Coleman (guitarist of Ziggy Marley)**. The recording of the album took place in their home studio in Portland, Jamaica. The backyard studio setting far away from the hustle of major studios on the island give the music real organic roots feel. After a month in Jamaica, William took the recordings to his home studio in Switzerland, to edit; record over Dubs and finalise the album. **The new music is a mix of Roots, Soul, Funk, Pop, Jazz, Country Reggae and even going the old Mento, all packed with Williams talented song writing.**

**FREEDOM (2011)** On the 3 of June 2011, William White's 3rd Album FREEDOM was successfully released in Switzerland, independently and entered at N07 the Top10 Swiss Album Charts. This 3rd Opus was entirely written, produced and recorded by William White in "The Wagon". A 100 year old Circus Wagon, which was completely restored by William White in 2009/2010. The singles "How can I be Free", "Soul Rider" and "Sailing" enjoyed nationwide radio airplay...

**Info:** Single "How can I be Free" made it in divers Swiss compilations as well as entered the Top50 Swiss Airplay charts. Summer 2011, William White and his 8tet performed at the well-known Paléo Festival, MAINSTAGE (23.07.11) As well as Rock Oz'Arènes (Mainstage), Star of Sounds and many others...

**EVOLUTION (2008)** On the 15th of February 2008, EVOLUTION was released independently in Switzerland. This second album, again written, produced and performed by William himself entered the Top10 Swiss Album Charts at no7 and stayed eight weeks in the Top50. The two weeks release Tour saw William White and The Emergency playing sold out shows in clubs with capacities of 700 to 1000 spectators. Evolution was also released independently in France, Benelux and Germany 2010.

**Info:** « Can't stop loving you » made it in divers Swiss Programs (Radio/TV) and Compilations « Die Grösste Schweizer Hits » 2008 (The Biggest Swiss Hits, 2008), «Sweet Love» was taken for the Film « Champions » in the cinemas January 2010 and in divers Reggae Compilations.

**UNDONE (2005)** William White's debut solo album, UNDONE was written, performed and produced by William White. UNDONE was released independently, from at home, in February 2005. The album had been recorded over the previous two years with William playing most of the instruments himself... (between work, getting married and becoming a father ...) UNDONE was signed the same year to German Independent Label Chet Records and was released in Germany in August 2005. William White & The Emergency had the opportunity to do the support for

Moneybrother through Germany, Austria and Switzerland! They toured Switzerland intensively for the whole year, playing the biggest Festivals (Montreux Jazz, Open-Air St.Gallen, Gurten Festival Bern, Greenfield Interlaken, Paléo Festival Nyon, Caribana Nyon...)

**Info:** „The Rock” (track 3) was finalist in the internationally acclaimed "John Lennon Songwriting Contest" early 2004. "Peace" (track 2) was finalist at the "USA Song of the year/VH1 contest" May 2004.