

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Saxophonist Steve Cole announces new album ‘Sleight of Hand’ with 10 original tunes produced by David Mann

Out June 5 via Mack Avenue Music Group / Artistry Music

Second Single “Maceology feat. Cory Wong” Out May 22

APRIL 27, 2026- Saxophonist and composer Steve Cole announced his new album Sleight of Hand will be released June 5 via Mack Avenue Music Group / Artistry Music. Partnering with his longtime producer and co-writer David Mann for a collection of 10 new original songs, Cole combines the sounds of two cities, Chicago and Minneapolis, that have come to define his musical identity. The first single “Knock Out” will be released this Friday – an instant classic that leans into the soul of Teddy Pendergrass, you can listen to the song below. Listen to Steve Cole’s “Knock Out”

The exhilarating sound that has made Steve Cole one of the most popular artists on today’s contemporary jazz scene was forged in two cities: his native Chicago and his longtime home of Minneapolis. “My whole musical foundation was built in Chicago,” Cole says. “It’s where I cut my teeth and it will always be my home. But I feel like I’ve come into my own in Minneapolis, and I’ve done my best work over the 17 years that I’ve lived here. I’ve been so inspired by the artistic community here and by the relationships I’ve formed with the brilliant musicians in the city. I don’t think I would be where I am today if I lived anywhere else.” Sleight of Hand revels in the eclectic and beguiling funk and soul of the two cities that the saxophonist has called home. Cole



Steve Cole (Photo Credit: Aaron Rice)

brings together infectious grooves, sensual ballads and a thrilling energy with a captivatingly layered production, a tricky proposition that suggests the illusory misdirection of the title. The musicians that breathe such vivid life into Sleight of Hand represent Cole’s local community as well as the extended network of collaborators that he has met through his travels across the globe. They include guitarist Bernd Schoenhart (Cher, Marc Anthony); trumpeter Trevor Neumann (The Eagles, Jeff Lorber); bassists Mel Brown (Stevie Wonder, The Temptations) and Will Lee (Paul Shaffer, The Brecker Brothers); and drummers Brian Dunne (Hall

and Oates, Ariana Grande) and Eric Valentine (Joe Satriani, Erykah Badu). Cole’s first call upon relocating to Minneapolis was organist Ricky Peterson, who enjoyed a two-decade collaboration with David Sanborn and worked with Prince as both a producer and a keyboardist at various times throughout the Purple One’s legendary career. For the single “Maceology,” a raucous, funky tribute to the great James Brown/P-Funk saxophonist Maceo Parker, Cole called on the most in-demand funk guitarist in music today, Cory Wong (Vulf-

peck, Fearless Flyers) - a longtime acquaintance who had joined Cole’s band for one memorable night at Dakota Jazz Club early in Wong’s meteoric rise to fame. Sleight of Hand is a joyous and celebratory affair, showcasing the love and reverence that Cole maintains for his two musical homes, their bold spirits and their breathtakingly diverse sounds.

About Steve Cole
Saxophonist Steve Cole is one of the most celebrated players in contemporary jazz. The Chicago native exploded onto the scene in

1998 with the album Stay Awhile, produced by fellow Chicagoan Brian Culbertson. Cole grew up on a diet of bebop blended with pop radio hits and honed his skills on the diverse 1990s Chicago music scene, where he was called on to play everything from jazz to funk to gospel, rock to R&B and soul. All of those experiences come into play in Cole’s exhilarating and wide-ranging music. In addition to his work as a solo artist, Steve has performed and/or recorded with such greats as Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Boz Scaggs, Larry Carlton, Jeff

Lorber, Jim Peterik, Freddie Cole, Cyrus Chestnut, and KMFDM. He’s also been a featured soloist with the City of Prague Orchestra and The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and is a founding member of The Sax Pack, a stellar sax trio completed by Kim Waters and Jeff Kashiwa. When not on the road, Dr. Cole teaches music industry entrepreneurship at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, where he is a Clinical Professor and Teaching Fellow.

Tour Dates

May 2: Milford, CT - Smooth Jazz for Scholars at Parsons Complex
May 12: Albufeira, Portugal - Algarve Smooth Jazz Festival 2026 at Pine Cliffs Resort
May 23: Minneapolis, MN - Dakota (Record Release Show)
Aug 13: Oakland, CA - Yoshi’s
Aug 14: Seal Beach, CA - Spaghettini
Aug 15: Phoenix, AZ - Musical Instrument Museum
Oct 16: London, UK - Indigo at The O2 (with Dave Koz, Marc Antoine & Rebecca Jade)
Nov 22: Chicago, IL - Smooth Jazz Chicago at Loews Hotel Chicago O’Hare
Saxophonist Steve Cole Announces New Album Sleight of Hand
10 New Original Songs Produced by David Mann
Combining Smooth Jazz, Disco & the Sound of Minneapolis
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Newsmax original presents ‘Tough Guys: The Men Who Made Hollywood’



Hollywood 'Tough Guys' Premieres on Newsmax heroes who felt no fear, and villains who didn’t give a damn — these were the men who didn’t always play by society’s rules but nonetheless swept up audiences. They are featured in the Newsmax original “Tough Guys: The Men Who Made Hollywood,” premiered on Sunday and will rebroadcast on Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m. (CST). For details, visit Newsmax.com or check with your local cable network and streaming services for designated channels to view Newsmax. The documentary features respected film historians guiding viewers through early Hollywood history and the men who brought life to gangster, outlaw, and heroic roles. They include standout leading men such as Wallace Beery, Lon Chaney, and Edward G. Robinson. James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart are also among those who played the “tough guy” role so iconically. “Hollywood tough guys were made up of men with grit behind their eyes, and they represented an era when presence and timing outweighed ego,” said Philip

Hopkins, president of Film Masters, a consortium of historians and film enthusiasts who seek to celebrate and preserve classic film. “These men didn’t just act — they performed their own life-threatening stunts and brought a

“These men didn’t just act — they performed their own life-threatening stunts and brought a raw, unpolished grit to the screen that defined the archetype for years to come,” Hopkins added. “In that brief, explosive moment of history, Hollywood’s tough guys stopped pretending — they simply were.”

raw, unpolished grit to the screen that defined the archetype for years to come,” Hopkins added. “In that brief, explosive moment of history, Hollywood’s tough guys stopped pretending — they simply were.” Narrated by radio personality and former TV host of “The Movie Loft,” Dana Hersey, the

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Celebrating their fifth year with one of the top tours in the genre, **Elevation Worship and Steven Furtick** announced the Elevation Nights 2026 Tour is coming to FedExForum on Saturday, Oct. 10, featuring ELEVATION RHYTHM. Tickets for the Elevation Nights 2026 Tour will go on sale next Friday, May 1, at 10 a.m. at www.ticketmaster.com and the FedExForum Box Office. An exclusive FedExForum presale is available this Thursday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to Friday, May 1, at 9 a.m. for current Memphis Grizzlies MVP Season Ticket Members, recipients of FedExForum Event Alert e-mails and texts and subscribers of Grizzlies e-News.

Having traveled across North America, the Elevation Nights tour has created powerful, can’t-miss experiences in every city it visits. Each night, Pastor Steven Furtick delivers a compelling message, while Elevation Worship leads audiences in passionate, high-energy worship. The setlist includes fan favorites like “Praise,” “Trust In God” and

“RATTLE!,” alongside new music including “Jesus Be The Name.” The evening will begin with ELEVATION RHYTHM bringing the energy with hits like “GOODBYE YESTERDAY” and their latest release “WASHED.” FedExForum has implemented a clear bag policy that limits the size and types of bags that may be brought into the venue for all future events. Only clear bags made of plastic, vinyl, or PVC no larger than 6x8x2inches will be allowed inside FedExForum. Clear bags may not have an all-over print or decoration that prohibits full view of its contents. Clear bags may contain a strap, but metal or chain straps are prohibited. Guests will be limited to one (1) clear bag per person. For more information, visit fedexforum.com/arena-policy-updates

About Elevation Worship:
Elevation Worship is the worship ministry of Elevation Church, a multi-site church based in Charlotte, N.C., led by Pastor Steven Furtick. They have released 18 albums, including RIAA Double

Platinum-certified songs “Jireh,” “O Come To The Altar,” “Do It Again,” “Praise,” “The Blessing” and “Graves Into Gardens,” as well as RIAA Platinum-certified songs “Here As In Heaven,” “See A Victory,” “Trust In God,” “LION” and “Same God.” The group also has 13 RIAA Gold-certified songs and two Gold-certified albums. Their latest album “SO BE IT,” released Feb. 20, 2026, is on track to be the group’s biggest solo album to date. This album includes stand-out singles “Jesus Be The Name,” “God I’m Just Grateful,” and the title track “SO BE IT.” Elevation Worship is passionate about producing songs for the local church that help others connect to God. Their primary goal is to create an atmosphere of worship that allows people to encounter Jesus personally. They have earned five No. 1 radio singles: “Graves Into Gardens,” “RATTLE!,” “Same God,” “Trust In God” and “Praise.” Elevation Worship has won one GRAMMY Award, five Billboard Music Awards, nine GMA Dove Awards and a K-LOVE

Fan Award. They have also received nominations for the American Music Awards and BET Awards. For more information, visit ElevationWorship.com.

About Steven Furtick:

Steven Furtick is the founder and lead pastor of Elevation Church, a GRAMMY® Award-winning songwriter and producer and a New York Times bestselling author based in Charlotte, N.C.

About ELEVATION RHYTHM:

ELEVATION RHYTHM is the youth expression of Elevation Church based in Charlotte, N.C., making music for the next generation to sing, dance and worship to. They released their first album “Growing Pains” in 2022, followed by “This Is The Gospel” in 2023, which features the original version of “PRAISES.” In 2024, they hit No. 1 at Christian radio with “PRAISES (remix),” featuring Forrest Frank. Find out more by visiting www.ELEVATIONRHYTHM.com.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE SOUL MAN: DAVID PORTER

HIS LIFE. HIS STORIES. HIS PHOTOGRAPHS.

THURSDAY • MAY 7 • 6 PM

STAX MUSEUM, 926 E MCLEMORE AVE, MEMPHIS, TN 38106

FREE ADMISSION

This special event is an evening with David Porter, featuring a conversation on the making of his autobiography, The Soul Man: Life of Songwriter David Porter, along with stories behind ten photographs from the Stax Museum collection. A book signing will follow, with copies available for purchase on-site.