Written by Sally Rosen - OFC Contributor
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Verdine White of Earth, Wind & Fire

May 17, 2011. "We always did have music around the house...that was always a big part of our life" says Verdine White of Earth, Wind & Fire. In the midst of recording new music, a demanding tour schedule and mentoring young musicians, Verdine White speaks as original member and bass player of Earth, Wind & Fire celebrating the band's 40th Anniversary! EWF has garnered multiple platinum albums, gold records, has been Grammy nominated twenty times and has won six Grammys , The band has forged timeless, mega hits including "Shining Star," "Sing A Song" and "That's The Way of the World," has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, performed Super Bowl half time and continues to perform live embarking upon a 2011 extensive tour. Verdine White met with OFC Official Fan Club to chat about the EWF early days, latest musical efforts and tour.

OFC: Good morning Verdine and thanks for being here. It is a privilege! Are you on the road currently, where are you right now?
VW: We're in New York. We did a concert last night here and we'll be in New York for a couple

of days. But we're switching hotels so we gotta check out in a few minutes.

The performance at SunFest a few weeks back, hands down EWF was the most jammed packed with fans. Fabulous show, set list 18 songs, what was pretty incredible was every song was a huge hit. After 40 years being a part of the band, what was your reaction to the show and the fans?
Oh, it was a great, good audience, a lot of fun. Of course we have about four or five generations who come see us, so that was amazing.

The music of Earth, Wind & Fire is highly recognizable. How do you feel when you see EWF featured as the quintessential sound that defines the seventies decade?
We don't think about it too much. We don't really think about it that much saying "the seventies." It was just an era we started in. A great era of course but we don't like say "oh seventies, seventies." We don't really do that.

Going back to the legacy and the history of the band, the founding members are yourself, Maurice…
... Phillip Bailey

And Phillip Bailey. And you come from a prodigious Chicago family, your father was a doctor. How was it that you and your brother Maurice followed the path of music?
Well, we always did have music around the house. So that was always a big part of our life, you know what I mean, having music around the house. So it just kind of flowed from one thing to another.

Were you involved in the early days of the Chess Record studio sessions?
No, no that was before my time. Maurice was.

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