

George Allen

George Allen was born on August 13, 1949 in Leland, MS into what can only be described as a “musical” family. His dad, along with various uncles and cousins either sang, played an instrument or both (it’s been humorously said that if you’re an Allen and you aren’t musical you’re “suspect”). He grew up some seven miles away in the town of Greenville, MS, located near the Mississippi river. Like many other kids of the era, George spent his teenage years in various ‘garage’ bands – first on guitar and even keyboards. He was soon drawn to his true calling – the bass guitar – quickly becoming quite proficient on it. In 1969, he joined a band called “Electric Cyrkus”. They soon moved to Jackson, MS. and became quite popular and eventually became the band for B.J. Thomas, already a famous recording artist bound for superstardom. When B.J. left, the band was quickly signed by Polydor Records, re-named “Mississippi Rain” and promptly set out touring across the country. After “Mississippi Rain” disbanded George became a founding member of another successful band, “Sassy Jones”. The group recorded several songs which gained extensive regional airplay. George left the group after several years and pursued a more rootsy direction. George worked with many great musicians over the years including the great producer and musician Jim Dickenson. When it came to blues and funk, George could hold his own with anyone – but he never lost his love for traditional country music – especially Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson. George eventually picked up an acoustic guitar and began singing and writing country music. In his lifetime he covered many genres – truly a renaissance man.