

2026 AJHF INDUCTEE: CHARLES RANDOLPH (RANDY) GOODRUM

Randy Goodrum was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1947. He attended Hot Springs High School where he played piano in a combo with saxophonist and future President, Bill Clinton. During the Clinton/Gore Presidential campaigns of 1992-96 Goodrum contributed original songs for the Inauguration and the Democratic conventions. In his formative years Goodrum studied with legendary jazz pianist John Puckett in Hot Springs while gigging at The Vapors and elsewhere around Arkansas. Besides Puckett, his influences include Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, Horace Silver, and Oscar Peterson. He finished his bachelor's degree in piano at Hendrix College in 1969 and also studied one summer at the Berklee School of Music in Boston on a *DownBeat Magazine* scholarship.

Goodrum migrated to Nashville, Tennessee in 1972 and stayed busy as a studio musician for the next eight years. Known best for his expertise on piano, it was during these years that he both collaborated with known artists and honed his signature songwriting style. He later did studio work in New York City, Los Angeles, and Atlanta where he recorded with musicians like George Benson, Stan Getz, Ron Carter, Dave Grusin, and Al Jarreau. Albums under his own name included *Fool's Paradise* (Polydor), *Solitary Nights* (GRP Records) and *Red Eye* (Clark Street Records). Goodrum songs have been recorded by jazz artists like Earl Klugh, George Benson, Tom Scott, Dave Grusin, Oscar Peterson, Russ Malone, Larry Coryell, Patti Austin, and Diane Schuur.

After living in Nashville, coastal Connecticut and Los Angeles, Goodrum returned to Arkansas in 2014 and now resides in Fayetteville. Goodrum's accolades include serving as president of the Nashville Songwriters Association International and induction into The Nashville Songwriter Hall of Fame. From Goodrum's online biography, "It is almost unimaginable that one songwriter has done time at Top 40, adult contemporary, country, rock, jazz, and R&B."

