

# Lionel Cole – Biography

## The Short Synopsis...

Lionel Cole is a singer, pianist, composer/arranger, music editor and public speaker. He is the son of legendary Grammy nominated singer/pianist Freddy Cole, the nephew of the late, great Nat King Cole and the cousin of multiple Grammy award winner Natalie Cole.

Lionel has and continues to work with musical icons such as:

**Mariah Carey, John Legend, Sam Moore, Robert Downey Jr., Az Yet, Ricky Lee Jones, Joss Stone, Van Hunt, Boyz to Men, Ivan Neville, Bruce Willis, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Grover Washington, Jr., Randy Jackson, Teena Marie, Cindy Herron, N’dea Davenport, Cyrus Chestnut, Antonio Heart, Michael Sembello, Dick Rudolph, Steve Cole, Michael Kroll, Cecilia Noel, Lili Hayden, Donna DeLory, Cameron Stone, Nikki Harris, Vinnie Colaiuta, Paulino Da Costa, Nathan Watts, Daniel Jobim, Wah Wah Watson...**

In 2010 while on a world tour with Ricky Lee Jones and her band, Lionel landed in Sydney and he immediately fell in love with Australia and its people. Lionel now resides in Paddington in Sydney full time.

Lionel Cole's lifelong involvement with the music industry is characterized by creativity, innovation, passion and diversity. Lionel has always believed that music is what changes hearts, opens minds and makes us feel alive. For Lionel, that is what music is all about and consequently, this is what Lionel Cole’s music is all about too.

## The Long Story...

Born in New York City, Lionel began his entertainment career as a high school student in Atlanta, Georgia where he co-hosted the award-winning syndicated ABC television show, **“Time Out”**. This led to a world tour with the international cast of **“Up With People”** which brought Lionel to Chicago where he pursued a performance diploma at Northwestern University.

Lionel began playing piano in a variety of Chicago venues and also worked as a cable television producer, a copy writer for advertising agencies after which he founded the quirky and successful **“Bedrock Corporation”** which achieved both regional and national success writing commercial spots & jingles for clients such as Kraft's **“Cheezasorus Rex.”**

He then moved to Los Angeles and began work as a staff composer and music editor alongside award winning TV producer Steve Tyrell, on several television projects including NBC's **“California Dreams”** and **“The Brady Bunch Movie”**. Lionel moved on to film composing for the highly acclaimed 1995 classic film **“Once Upon A Time... When We Were Colored”**.

Later Lionel and Malcolm Jamal Warner (Theo from The Cosby Show) partnered to form the jazz/funk band, **“Miles Long”**. The Miles Long album, **“The Many Facets Of Superman”** featured En Vogue's Cindy Heron and soul icon, Teena Marie.

This led to a featured vocalist performance by Lionel in John Powell's score for the 2002 feature film "**The Bourne Identity**" and a two year stint as band leader on the television series "**Malcolm & Eddie**". Lionel then joined actor Robert Downey Jr.'s band where he sang and played piano with Robert on "**The Oprah Winfrey Show**", "**The Tonight Show**", "**Ellen**", and "**Good Morning America**".

Lionel then began a partnership with veteran television actor/director, Tim Reid, where he composed and supervised music beds for feature films such as "**Asunder**" (a New York Times critics pick) and the television series "**Linc's**" on Showtime.

Following this Lionel remixed the million-seller single "**Hard to Say I'm Sorry**," by boy band, Az Yet featuring Peter Cetera and became Director of Music for the only full service African-American film studio in America, New Millennium Studios in Virginia.

Lionel then joined the touring band of singer Mariah Carey where he played piano and sang background vocals with Mariah on her sold-out worldwide tours. He played piano on her #1 single, "**Never Too Far Hero**" and co-wrote three songs (including the worldwide hit "**Through the Rain**") from her multi-platinum album "**Charmbracelet**".

One of Lionel's proudest moments was arranging the "**Star Spangled Banner**" for Mariah Carey and the Boston Pops Orchestra for the 2002 Superbowl following 9/11. This performance of Lionel's arrangement was watched and heard by 85 million people in the USA alone.

This led to a collaboration on "**Walk On By**" with pop prodigy Joss Stone featured on "**Randy Jackson's Music Club Volume 1**." The team also worked on many films produced by Walmart Family Pictures.

For the last few years Lionel's creativity has been focused in work with long time writing partner Randy Jackson from the television powerhouse series American Idol. He worked on countless projects including the Grammy nominated Sam Moore (of Sam and Dave) album "**Overnight Sensation**" and the Grammy award winning remake "**A Family Affair**" with Van Hunt, John Legend, and Joss Stone.

2010 brought a world tour with 1980's icon Rickie Lee Jones as her background singer and multi-instrumentalist. This landed Lionel in Sydney, Australia where he currently lives and works as a solo artist, band leader for "Cole Soul and Emotion", a radio DJ and music producer providing consulting services for bands, venues and events.

In May 2014 Lionel participated as a contestant on the Channel 9 TV show "**The Voice Australia**" where he worked closely with coaches Ricky Martin and Kylie Minogue.

You can still catch Lionel working with his father in the family business from Poland to Manhattan spreading the virtues of the Great American Songbook and its heirs. Born to a name synonymous with breaking down barriers, Lionel has carried on the family tradition and made inroads of his own. Uncle Nat obliterated the color line, cousin Natalie defines pop longevity, and Grammy-nominated father Freddy proves one is never too old to be an overnight success.



## **Composer, Producer & Arranger – Film & Television**

Arranger of **“The Star Spangled Banner”** for the 2002 Superbowl XXXVI  
Sung by Mariah Carey with The Boston Pops Orchestra conducted by Keith Lockhart  
Viewed Live on FOX TV by 85 million people in the US alone

**“Linc’s”** – TV Comedy Show

Score Composer/Music Supervisor/Title Song: “Linc’s Theme” - Showtime Network - Debbie Allen, Director

**“California Dreams”** – TV Sitcom

Featured underscore for various episodes/Song: “Get Funky” - NBC - Peter Engle, Producer

**“The Television Academy Hall of Fame”** – TV Awards Program

Featured underscore - ABC - Douglas Ross, Producer

**“Malcolm & Eddie”** – TV Sitcom

Featured underscore for various episodes/Song: “Love Me” - UPN - Jeff Franklin/David Duclan, Producers

**“Restaurant”** – Feature Film

Song: “Nothing but a Love Thing” - York entertainment - Eric Bross, Director

**“Grace Under Fire”** – TV Sitcom

Featured underscore - NBC - Franco Barrio, Producer

**“The Brady Bunch Movie”** – Feature Film

Featured performer on the Song: “I Am Your Monster” - Paramount - Betty Thomas, Director

**“Once Upon A Time... When We Were Colored”** – Feature Film

Lead Score Composer/Title Song: “Maybe Tomorrow” - United Image/B.E.T.- Tim Reid, Director

**“A Good Man in Africa”** – Feature Film

Song: “I Need You” - MCA - Bruce Beresford, Director

**“Asunder”** – Feature Film

Score Composer/Music Supervisor - New Millennium Pictures, Tim Reid, Director

**“Flamingo Dreams”** – Feature Film

Score Composer/Music Supervisor - Hollywood Brewing Company - Lamar Card, Director

**“Spirit Lost”** – Feature Film

Score Composer - United Image/ B.E.T.- Tim Reid, Producer

**“Out-of-Sync”** – Feature Film

Music Supervisor - United Image/ B.E.T.- Debbie Allen, Director



## **Composer, Producer & Arranger – Album Recordings**

Album “**Talk to Me**” by Freddy Cole on High Note Records  
Composer “After All These Years”

Album “**Overnight Sensation**” by Sam Moore on Rhino Records  
Pianist & Vocalist

Album “**Randy Jackson’s Music Club Volume 1**” – (various artists) on Concord/Dream  
Merchant 21  
Co-composer of “Just Walk on By” (with But Bacharach, Hal David, Randy Jackson, Joss Stone)

Album “**Charmbracelet**” by Mariah Carey on MonarC/Def Jam  
Co-writer of multiplatinum hit single “Through the Rain”, “I Only Wanted” & “Sunflowers”

Album “**Knuffelrock**” by Az Yet on LaFace Records  
Song “Hard to Say I’m Sorry” (Chase Remix) featuring Peter Cetera (Platinum Selling Single)

Album “**The Brady Bunch Movie**” – Original Motion Picture Soundtrack on Milan/BMG Records  
Album Coordinator

Album “**This Is Always**” by Freddy Cole on Fantasy Records  
Producer & Arranger for the singles “Count to Ten” & “The Rose” plus Associate Album Producer

Album “**The Sound**” by Jaze on Universal Records  
Producer & Composer of “The Sound”

Album “**Impressions**” by Afro Blue Band on Milestone Records  
Arranger of the track “Lonnie’s Lament” (with Arthur Barron & Todd Barkan)

Album “**Spittin’ Lingo**” by Gina on Scotti Brothers Records  
Arranger “When You Touch Me” (with Wah Wah Watson)

Album “**Holly McNarland**” by Holly McNarland on Universal Records  
Programmer of the singles “The Box” & “Elmo”

Album “**Black Light**” by Harleigh Cole on Domo/Narada Records  
Album Mixer/Engineer

Album “**Hello**” by Poe on Modern/Atlantic Records  
Programmer of the singles “Trigger Happy Jack” & “Fingertips”

Album “**Tha Hoodlums of Testimony**” by T-bone on Metro-One  
Co-composer and arranger of the singles “Keep On Praisin’” & “Growin’ Up”

Album “**199sick**” by Spice 1 on Zomba Records  
Co-composer and arranger of “Ain’t No Love”

Album **“In the Name of Love”** by Freddy Cole on Telarc Records  
Composer of the track “Save Some Time for Me”

Album **“I Want a Smile for Christmas”** by Freddy Cole on Fantasy Records  
Co-composer of the title track “I Want a Smile for Christmas”

## **Live Television Performances**

**“The Oprah Winfrey Show”** - with Mariah Carey

**“The Oprah Winfrey Show”** - with Robert Downey, Jr.

**“Good Morning America”** - with Mariah Carey

**“Good Morning America”** - with Robert Downey, Jr.

**“The View”** - with Mariah Carey

**“Ellen”** - with Robert Downey, Jr.

**“The Tonight Show with Jay Leno”** - with Robert Downey, Jr.

**“The Today Show”** - with Mariah Carey

**“A Home For the Holidays”** - with Mariah Carey

**“Superbowl XXXVI”** - with Mariah Carey

## **Music Editing and Sound Design for Commercials**

**“The Brady Bunch Movie”** – Paramount, Betty Thomas

**“Once Upon A Time... When We Were Colored”** - United Image/B.E.T., Tim Reid

**“Atlantis”** - The Underground, Greg Ellis

**“Wired World Wide”** - Apple computers, Victoria Mia Vallas

**“California Dreams”** – NBC, Peter Engle

**“Tazzercize”** - Warner Bros, Steve Tyrell

**“Chevy”** - New Millennium Television

**“The Difference is You”** - Jostens Learning Group

**“Innerbath Showers”** - Screaming Tantrum Productions

**“Kraft Mac & Cheese”** - Foote Cone & Belding

**“Wilson Performance Footwear”** - Bayer, Bess & Vanderwarker

**“The Virginia State Lottery”** - New Millennium Television

**“FX-It’s out There”** - Evolution Film & Tape

**“1-800-CABLE ME”** - Weber, Cohn & Riley

## **Acting Experiences for Film, Television and Radio**

**“Timeout”** - ABC - Co-Host

**“Levis 501 Chicago”** - National Commercial - Leo Burnett - Featured Musician

**“Beverly Hills 90210”** - FOX - Featured Musician

**“Grace Under Fire”** - NBC - Featured Soloist

**“California Dreams”** - NBC - Voice of “Mick”

**“Malcolm & Eddie”** - UPN - Band Leader

**“American Idol”** - FOX - Vocal Coach/Accompanist

**“Asunder”** - Feature Film - Night Club Singer

**“The Wide World of Jazz”** Presenter on Sydney radio station  
Eastside FM 89.7 (eastsidefm.org) – 2011 to Present

**“The Crossroads”** presenter on Radio Q. Qantas Airlines worldwide 2014 - Present

## **Jingles and Voice Overs**

1988-91 Various industrial vocal performances for clients including **Arby’s & McDonald’s**

1995 The voice of “Mick”, the aging English rock star, on NBC’s **“California Dreams”**

1998-99 Vocals for various FOX cartoons including **“Clifford The Big Red Dog”**

2011 - Present Vocals for Australian market including **Commonwealth Bank & Hungry Jacks**



## **Volunteer Work and Professional Organizations**

### **I Have a Dream Foundation**

Offers collegiate opportunities for “at risk” inner city youth.

### **Urban Gateways**

Created workshops and supplemented the fine art curriculum in Chicago area schools.

### **Chicago Cares**

Urban rebuilding and re-education program.

### **Phi Mu Alpha**

Men’s Professional Music Fraternity

### **Up With People**

International Touring Group promoting world peace.

### **Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI)**

Public Performance Music Licensing Organisation

### **Screen Actors Guild of America (SAG)**