

Shortly after, his parents gave him Jimi Henrix' "Are You Experienced". Backer's musically formative years were spent listening to Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Sergio Mendes, Antonio Carlos Jobim, The Mamas and The Papas, Santana, and Wilson Pickett.



Photo by Eric Blakeley

After graduating from college, Backer began playing jazz in London and the Midlands. The first record Backer played on was "What's the Color of Money" by Hollywood Beyond (Warner Electra Artists/ 1986) which went to #7 on the UK Charts and was a world wide hit.

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Backer was playing with UK singer Sarah Jane Morris when she opened for Simply Red in 1989.

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3.2 1990's

Matt Backer played on several Sarah Jane Morris records in the 1990s including Heaven (1992/label), Blue Valentine (1994/label) and Fallen Angel (1996/label).

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In 1992, Backer played and wrote with Irish singer songwriter Suzanne Rhatigan and played on To Hell With Love (1993/Imago Records). The record was produced by Scritti Politti drummer Fred Maher.

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In 1993, Backer played with Marcella Detroit (a.k.a. Marcy Levy) who is Eric Clapton's collaborator, on her single "I Believe" from Jewel (London Records) which was produced by Chris Thomas (Beatles, Sex Pistols, Roxy Music, Pretenders). Backer performed with Detroit on the UK show Top of The Pops. Detroit is also half of the group Shakespeare's Sister.

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In 1993, Backer appeared again on Top Of the Pops on the BBC with Detroit and Elton John as they performed "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing" (Marvin Gaye and Tami Terrell).

