

In 1994, Backer played on the Swing Out Sister album *The Living Return*. He contributed the guitar solo on the band's cover of The Delphonic's "La, La (Means I Love You)", which was featured in the 1994 movie *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. He toured the US and Japan with Swing Out Sister in 1997.

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In 1994, Backer played on Peter Bruntnell's debut album "Cannibal", produced by Grammy award winner Pete Smith (Sting, Van Morrison amongst others). He was also part of the Michael Ball (Les Misérables" in the West End AND on Broadway ) house band for his television show, which afforded him the opportunity to play with Cher, James Brown, Monserrat Caballe and James Brown. Backer also toured the UK with Michael. Ball.

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In 1997, Backer toured with Aimee Mann and Bob Geldof.

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In 1998, Backer toured the UK with actor and impressionist, Steve Coogan and played on "Phenomenon" by one of Coogan's personas, Tony Ferrimo. He also played on Coogan's duet "Short Term Affair" with Icelandic singer, Bjork.



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In 1998, Backer met Julian Lennon and played on Lennon's "Photograph Smile" record. The record release was followed by a world tour and Backer became Lennon's bandleader in 1998 and 1999. The two remain friends and songwriters.

In 1999, Backer was called as a substitute guitarist with the UK band ABC, and has played with the band since.