

INTO THE LIGHT

THE MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY OF JÉRÔME BRUNET



FOREWORD BY
STEVE MILLER

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INTRODUCTION

By Jérôme Brunet

My love for music began long before I found my way into photography. My mother was a classically trained musician and teacher, and had me playing the cello at age four. I continued on for the next ten years into my teens, but when I first heard the opening riff of Led Zeppelin's "Communication Breakdown" I instantly switched over to the guitar. It wasn't until high school, when I took a photography class, that my mission in life became clear, combining my two passions together: music and photography.

One of the very first photographs of a musician I can remember admiring was by famed Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh of cellist Pablo Casals. I was struck by the angle of the photograph, which was taken from behind, and the power of the image that could be achieved from an unusual perspective. Years later, while studying photography at the E.F.E.T. art college in Paris, France, I had the honor of meeting the master humanist photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, who just happened to live near me next to the Louvre. I remember looking into his clear, blue eyes and telling him what an enormous inspiration he was. The next time I saw him on the street, I ran back to my flat to get one of his books, and asked him to sign it. He brushed aside my pen and instead drew a vintage gold fountain pen from his coat and proceeded to sign irreverently, "Henri etc."

After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, in early 2001, I had the life changing experience of taking a master class with Jim Marshall, the godfather of rock photography. Afterwards we drank bourbon at his place and I was transfixed as he regaled me with his incredible stories of shooting the legendary Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock. He later invited me to showcase my work alongside his at one of his last benefit shows on the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles. A memory I will never forget.

Creating this book has enabled me to reflect on the last two decades of my career and pause to appreciate where it all started. One of the first concerts I ever shot was back in 1994 at the Banlieues Bleues Festival in Paris. Headlining was none other than the legendary King of the Blues, B.B. King. As I snuck my way up to the front row next to the press, I realized I was beside noted Magnum photographer Guy Le Querrec, who could tell I wasn't supposed to be there but just ended up giving me a big grin. B.B. King finally showed up and my first black and white shots of the musical legend were born. Little did I know, that years later we'd meet up again and he'd be gracing the cover of my book.

I'm known to shoot what is referred to in French as shooting in "contre-jour" or "into the light," where the camera is pointed directly toward a source of light. After twenty years into my journey as a music photographer I thought it was time to put my work "Into The Light" and share this collection with music and art lovers everywhere. As a musician and music fan, photography has allowed me to channel my passion and I hope you enjoy these photographs as much as I did taking them.



Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018



Etta James
Santa Cruz Blues Festival, Aptos, California, 2007



Joss Stone
Warfield Theater, San Francisco, California, 2007





Sharon Jones
Greek Theatre, Berkeley, California, 2015



Susan Tedeschi & Sharon Jones
Backstage at Greek Theatre, Berkeley, California, 2015



Derek Trucks of Tedeschi Trucks Band
Olympia Music Hall, Paris, France, 2014



James Cotton of Howlin' Wolf & Muddy Waters Band
Santa Cruz Blues Festival, Aptos, California, 2012







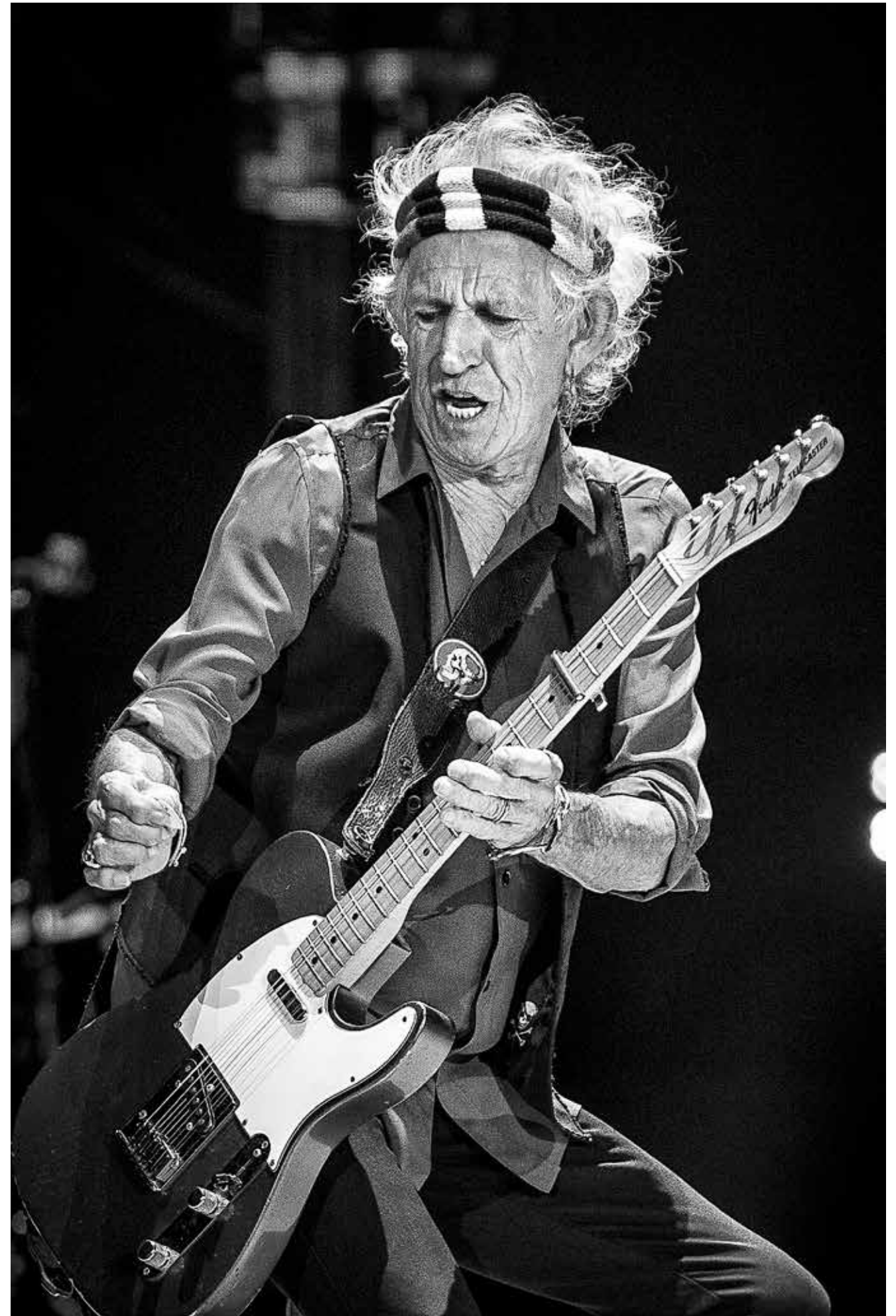
Chance The Rapper
Outside Lands Music Festival, San Francisco, California, 2016



The Kiss
Outside Lands Music Festival, San Francisco, California, 2016



Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones
Desert Trip Music Festival, Indio, California, 2016



Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones
Desert Trip Music Festival, Indio, California, 2016



Dave Grohl of Foo Fighters
BottleRock Napa Valley Music Festival, California, 2017





“Jérôme Brunet has an innate and unique quality of capturing artists in the moment. His work takes you on the stage and deep into the music. It’s where his magic happens.” – **John Varvatos**

