



Biography

JON DAVISON

Jon Davison, Lead singer and songwriter of progressive rock band '**YES**'. **Davison** joined **YES** in 2012, and is also known as the former lead singer of progressive rock band **GLASS HAMMER** (2009 to 2014), and the former bass guitarist and multi-instrumentalist of **SKY CRIES MARY** (1993 to 2016), in which he was credited under his nickname of "**Juano**" **Davison**.

Davison's earliest involvement with music began when he sang in the church youth choir led by his mother. From an early age, she instilled in him an appreciation for music and love for singing. Soon after he took up guitar and bass, which eventually led him, during High School, to perform in various bands with his childhood best friend, **Taylor Hawkins** (the drummer for **FOO FIGHTERS**). It was Hawkins who gave Jon the nickname "Juano" that has stuck to this day. During this time, Davison and Hawkins discovered progressive rock, and in particular for Davison, his future band '**YES**'.

In 1993, Davison attended the Art Institute of Seattle to study audio and video production where he landed the gig of bassist for Northwest psychedelic and experimental group **SKY CRIES MARY**. Throughout the 1990s, he continued recording and touring with the band. Some highlights of this period were travelling to Japan, and appearing on late night talk shows including ***Late Night Live with Conan O'Brian*** and ***The Daily Show with Jon Stewart***.

In 2001, Davison moved to Brazil where he absorbed the culture and the unique music of the country, and played bass with **Ronald Augusto** performing on several live television appearances.

Davison remained a member of Sky Cries Mary, but between 2006 and 2009 he also performed occasionally with the now-disbanded Yes tribute band **Roundabout**. In 2009, **GLASS HAMMER** discovered Davison singing **YES** music online and asked him to join the band as "the voice we were always writing music for", according to founding members **Steve Babb** and **Fred Schendel**.

Davison recorded on five albums with Glass Hammer, ***If***, ***Cor Cordium***, ***Perilous***, ***The Inconsolable Secret*** and ***Ode to Echo***, and was a pivotal songwriter on ***If*** and ***Cor Cordium*** (he stepped back from songwriting on the later albums due to starting work with **YES**).

In February 2012, Davison was announced as the new lead singer of **YES**, replacing **Benôit David** who left the group because of illness. **YES** were due to leave for a tour of Australia, and a race was on to find the perfect replacement. **Chris Squire**, the bassist for **YES**, is quoted as saying that Jon's

name came up when they first started working with Benoit as his friend, **Taylor Hawkins**, had told him 'If you ever need a replacement (singer), I know exactly the guy'. At the same time the manager for **YES** had also heard **Davison's** work with **GLASS HAMMER**, and appealed to **Steve Howe** and the other members that he should be approached.

In 2014 '**Heaven and Earth**' was released, and Davison wrote or co-wrote seven out of the eight tracks, cementing his role within the band.

In 2015, Davison joined his friend **Hawkins** and the **FOO FIGHTERS** on stage to perform the **RUSH** song '**Tom Sawyer**'. The concert took place in Anaheim, near their childhood hometown, in front of all their friends and family.

Numerous tours and live albums followed, including their headline appearance on six '**Cruise to the Edge**' festivals at sea. During the 2018 cruise **Davison** performed live with **GLASS HAMMER** as a guest. As **GLASS HAMMER** was mainly a studio project, it marked the first time Davison performed his classic compositions with them live, much to the anticipation amongst the fans onboard. During the 2019 Cruise **Davison** met his girlfriend, the daughter of **THE MOODY BLUES' JOHN LODGE**, leading to his friendship with Lodge.

In the Summer of 2019 **YES** went out on tour as the headline act on **THE ROYAL AFFAIR**. The four-hour epic progressive rock festival also included **CARL PALMER, ARTHUR BROWN, ASIA**, and **JOHN LODGE OF THE MOODY BLUES**, and toured across the United States to the delight of fans. Lodge invited Davison to join him on stage each night to perform '**Ride my See-Saw**', and during the last nights of the Royal Affair, **YES** invited Lodge to join them on stage to share lead vocals on '**Imagine**'.

Davison has continued to work on side projects with Lodge, performing live with him on his 2019 and 2020 tours, and his 2020 appearance on '**Rock and Romance Cruise**', guest appearing as lead vocalist on '**Nights in White Satin**'. He also has performed backing vocals on Lodge's singles '**In These Crazy Times**' and '**The Sun Will Shine**', and engineered the recording of Lodge's bass.

In August 2019, Davison again joined the Foo Fighters on stage, this time in concert in Dublin, Ireland in front of an audience of 45,000. Davison and Hawkins co-sung **QUEEN's 'Under Pressure'** while **Dave Grohl** took over on drums.

Summer of 2020 saw the release of the **Steve Howe** album '**Love Is**', Davison performed bass guitar and background vocals on the album.

In December 2020, 'Arc of Life' was released. This album was a progressive rock 'supergroup' comprising **Davison** on vocals and guitar, **Billy Sherwood** on Bass and shared lead vocals, **Jay Schellen** on Drums, **Dave Kerzner** on Keyboards and **Jimmy Haun** on Lead Guitar.

During the 2020-2021 pandemic **Davison** and **YES** began work on their new album '**The Quest**' due for release in October 2021. The first single, '**The Ice Bridge**' was released on July 23rd, and was co-written by **Davison** and **Geoff Downes**. Davison wrote or co-wrote six of the tracks on the album.

With touring on hold due to the pandemic, **Davison** is currently working with **YES** on a follow-up album, and the 2020 European Tour has been rescheduled for 2022, with a USA tour also in the works.



All photos courtesy of Gottlieb Bros.

Discography

Sky Cries Mary

- This Timeless Turning (1993) – bass
- Moonbathing on Sleeping Leaves (1997) – bass
- Fresh Fruits for the Liberation (1998) – bass
- Seeds (1999) – bass
- Here and Now (2005) – bass

- Small Town (2007) – bass
- Space Between the Drops (2009) – bass
- Taking The Stage: 1997–2005 (2011) – bass, percussion, acoustic guitar, backing vocal

Glass Hammer

- If (2010) – lead and backing vocals
- Cor Cordium (2011) – lead and backing vocals, acoustic guitar
- The Stories of H.P. Lovecraft (2012, collaborative) - lead & backing vocals "Cool Air"
- Perilous (2012) – lead and backing vocals
- The Inconsolable Secret (2013 re-recording) – lead vocals
- Ode to Echo (2014) – lead and backing vocals
- Untold Tales (2017, previously unreleased/rare material) - lead and backing vocals

Arc of Life

- Arc Of Life (2021) - lead vocals

YES

Studio albums

- Heaven & Earth (2014) – lead and backing vocals, acoustic guitar
- The Quest (2021) – lead and backing vocals, acoustic guitar

Live albums

- Like It Is: Yes at the Bristol Hippodrome (2014) – lead vocals, AC guitar, percussion, keys
- Like It Is: Yes at the Mesa Arts Center (2015) – lead vocals, AC guitar, percussion, keys
- Topographic Drama - Live Across America (2017) - lead vocals, AC guitar, percussion
- Yes 50 Live (2019) - lead vocals, acoustic guitar, percussion, keyboards
- The Royal Affair Tour: Live from Las Vegas (2020) - lead vocals, AC guitar, percussion, keys

GUEST APPEARANCES

- 'Tales from the Edge: A Tribute to the Music of Yes' (2012) – lead vocals and tambourine on "Starship Trooper" with The Samurai of Prog
- 'Absinthe Tales of Romantic Visions' by Mogador (2012) – lead vocals on "The Sick Rose"
- 'The Birds of Satan' by Taylor Hawkins (2015) - backing vocals on "Pieces of the Puzzle" and "Raspberries"
- 'Citizen' by Billy Sherwood (2015) - lead vocals on "Written in the Centuries"
- 'Lost and Found' by The Samurai of Prog (2016) - lead vocals on "She (Who Must be Obeyed)"
- 'Chaptersend' by Mogador (2017) - backing vocals on "Josephine's Regrets"
- 'Difference' (single) by Edison's Lab (2018) - backing vocals
- 'A Life in Yes - The Chris Squire Tribute' (various artists) (2018) - lead vocals on "On the Silent Wings of Freedom" and "Parallels"
- 'Yesterday and Today - A 50th Anniversary Tribute to Yes' by Sonic Elements (2018) - lead vocals on "Acoustic Medley"
- 'Acceleration Theory Part One' by In Continuum (2019) - vocals on "Crash Landing", "Scavengers" and "Meant to Be"
- 'Planetary Overload Part 1: Loss' by United Progressive Fraternity (2019) - backing vocals on two tracks
- 'Get the Money' by Taylor Hawkins and the Coattail Riders (2019) - on "Crossed the Line"
- 'Acceleration Theory Part Two' by In Continuum (2019) - vocals
- 'A Prog Rock Christmas' by various artists (2019) - vocals on "Run with the Fox"
- 'A Tribute to Keith Emerson & Greg Lake' by various artists (2020) - vocals on "C'est la Vie"
- 'On the Ending Earth' by Anyone (2020) - bass on "Thought I was"
- 'Cov3r to Cov3r' (2020) by Neal Morse, Mike Portnoy and Randy George - lead vocals on "No Opportunity Necessary No Experience Needed"
- 'Worlds on Hold' by Prog Collective (2020) – Lead vocals on 'Anything But Goodbye'

- 'In These Crazy Times' (single) by John Lodge (2020) – backing vocals
- 'The Sun Will Shine' (single) by John Lodge (2021) – backing vocals and engineer Lodge's bass