



Jimmy Sommers
Class of 1987
Jazz Artist

Jimmy Sommers always had a passion for music. As a teenager, he would sneak his saxophone into Chicago nightclubs to jam with local musicians. Jimmy went to Southern Illinois University on a performance scholarship. He completed his industrial engineering degree a semester early so he could go to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of a music career.

While in Los Angeles, Jimmy played many remix sessions with famous artists which led him to touring in Europe and the completion of his first record, *James Cafe*. Securing a label deal with his first CD, he since then has released six CD's in total. His latest release, *Sunset Collective*, included guests such as Macy Gray and Paul Oakenfold. He continues to receive rave reviews, and is constantly rated as one of the top five contemporary jazz artists. In 2008 he started a scholarship that goes to a deserving Hersey musician or singer to help defray college expenses.

In addition to his music career, Jimmy has been quite an entrepreneur. He is the co-owner of the famous KOI restaurant in Los Angeles and was an original foundational partner of the Baby Genius Company. He currently started the successful clothing line, Whitehorse Couture. He has been on many television shows throughout his career, and has performed in sold-out venues all over the world.