

JESSE JOHNSON

VERBAL PENETRATION

"Verbal Penetration," released by Bellavenix Music, is more than just the latest musical project by guitarist **Jesse Johnson**. The two CD-set of all new original material – produced, performed, recorded and directed by Johnson – is the kind of benchmark work that redefines careers.

Johnson's adventurous amalgamation of soul, funk, rock and jazz finds him at the apex of his recorded creativity, ambitiously going where few artists dare venture in these days of fast food funk and freeze-dried passion.

Tracks such as the bold *"Slave 2 R Freedom"* and *"Propaganda,"* the artist's pointed take on hype and spin, speak to the bewildered state of popular culture, while sweet *"Beautiful Sadie,"* the assured *"We R So Strong"* and the head-bobbing *"100 Watts Of Funky,"* as well as the instrumental homage *"Ali Frazier"* – during which Jesse's inspired guitar work recalls jazz guitar great Wes Montgomery – all feature a prolific Johnson as he's never been heard before.

More than a song, the, big, swaggering, anthemic title track is a call to cerebral arms, an impassioned plea for us to open up our minds, mouths and our hearts and communicate with one another.

This 2-disc set is the celebrated next level for **Jesse Johnson**, charter member of the legendary band **The Time** and co-writer of two of the unit's biggest hits, *"Jungle Love"* and *"The Bird."* As a solo artist, Johnson released five solo albums, four of which went gold and platinum, spawning such hits as *"Be Your Man,"* *"Can You Help Me,"* *"I Want My Girl,"* *"Free World"* and *"Crazy,"* Johnson's duet with the iconic **Sly Stone**.

However, *"Verbal Penetration"* is something else. The work is lofty, yet sexy; introspective, yet in-your-face. It's where all artists end up if they are brave enough to take the chance. **Jesse Johnson** has taken that leap. And he's writing and playing his ass off.

