William Duncan: A Lifetime of Precision, Artistry, and Innovation

William Duncan's career spans over six decades of military service, aerospace machining, music composition, and environmental technology development. Defined by technical precision, disciplined problem-solving, and continuous learning, his journey connects Cold War aerospace manufacturing and studio recording to pioneering conservation engineering in Southeast Asia.

Early Life and Military Service

Born in Paris, Tennessee, Duncan spent his foundational years developing a keen interest in mechanical systems and craftsmanship. In 1965, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, completing his Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Following his initial preparation, he was deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam, where he was assigned to a civil engineering unit responsible for the ongoing construction, expansion, and structural development of the airbase.

Working in a high-demand, mission-critical environment, Duncan helped build and maintain essential infrastructure supporting military aviation operations. He served honorably until his discharge in 1968, completing his tour prior to the Tet Offensive. His military service established a lifelong foundation in civil engineering principles, structural integrity, and logistical adaptability.

Aerospace Machining and Precision Engineering

Upon returning to civilian life, Duncan applied his military technical experience to the American aerospace industry. In the 1970s, he joined North American Rockwell Aviation in Columbus, Ohio, working as an aircraft machinist on the A-5 Vigilante warbird program. He later relocated to Kansas to work as a bar machinist for Cessna Power and Floyd, specializing in component fabrication and heavy machinery tooling.

By the 1980s, Duncan was employed at Boeing Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas, contributing to complex commercial and military aerospace systems. Across these roles, his work required rigorous adherence to fine tolerances, materials testing, and mechanical system design. This extensive background as an aircraft machinist honed an exceptional ability to conceptualize, draft, and manufacture bespoke mechanical components from raw materials.

Musical Journey, Theory, and Audio Engineering

Alongside his industrial engineering career, Duncan cultivated a deep devotion to music and sound production. His entry into performance began during his time at North American Rockwell in Columbus, Ohio, when the bass player for the legendary funk band Ohio Players visited his home on his birthday. That encounter inspired Duncan to pursue music as a serious discipline.

While working at Cessna in Kansas, Duncan purchased his first bass guitar and initiated an intensive process of self-directed study. He developed his technique by analyzing the distinct styles of master bassists, including Larry Graham, James Jamerson, Marcus Miller, Verdine White, Bootsy Collins, and Stanley Clarke.

Duncan’s musical evolution reached a turning point in the 1980s while working at Boeing in Wichita, where he met Gilbert, a fellow aircraft machinist and experienced musician. Gilbert mentored Duncan in formal fretboard navigation, chord patterns, scale structures, harmonic

theory, and ergonomics. Bridging technical skill with musical intuition, Duncan mastered fingerstyle techniques, slap-and-pop dynamics, and rhythm arrangements.

Applying the same meticulous organization to audio production that he used in aerospace manufacturing, Duncan opened his own private recording studio in 2002. Collaborating with Gilbert and local artists, he designed acoustically balanced recording spaces, mastered direct-input (DI) and miked cabinet techniques, and managed signal paths, dynamic mixing, EQ shaping, and mastering. His ongoing work as a composer and arranger led to his official membership in the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) in 2004.

Relocation to the Philippines and Technology Innovation

On July 16, 2016, Duncan relocated permanently to the Philippines, marking a decade of continuous residence and international collaboration. Bringing decades of mechanical engineering, aerospace machining, and technical studio expertise to his new home, Duncan soon connected with JR Matias of Poseidon Sciences.

Together, they channeled their combined technical disciplines into ecological technology, focusing on unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV/drone) application systems. Duncan currently serves as a lead mechanical design specialist collaborating with Poseidon Sciences and the Sulu Garden Foundation, where he designs, prototypes, and fabricates custom aerial dispersal mechanisms for conservation and agricultural research initiatives.

Integrating drone platform technology with custom hardware requires an intricate balance of payload dynamics, weight distribution, structural durability, and mechanical reliability—challenges directly met by Duncan's background in civil engineering and aircraft machining. His engineered dispersal systems allow research teams to deploy materials with high spatial accuracy across varied terrain, advancing environmental monitoring and habitat restoration.

Integrated Legacy

William Duncan’s career demonstrates how distinct disciplines, military civil engineering, aerospace manufacturing, audio engineering, and environmental technology can inform and enhance each other. Whether fabricating specialized drone hardware, engineering dynamic audio recordings, or supporting conservation research, Duncan continues to contribute practical technical solutions and artistic leadership to global projects.