

Eric T. Johnson

GUITARIST/COMPOSER



Described as “a sophisticated stylist in the Wes Montgomery tradition”(Cadence), “a convincing, sweet, jazz guitar player”(JazzTimes), and “the consummate quartet guitarist”(Jazz Friends Review), guitarist/composer Eric T. Johnson, with four recordings as a leader, has proven that he is a major force in the New England/New York Jazz Scene.

At the age of 27 he co-founded the group Crosscurrent, an original, globally influenced sextet. Eric has produced two CDs as a leader with Crosscurrent, featuring his own compositions, and also co-produced two others, all of which were released by his own label, Laugh and Jangle Records. According to Cadence Magazine his writing for Crosscurrent “is proof that accessible Jazz need not be mindless.” His guitar playing on **By the Sea** has been described as “richly textured and chordal, then dexterous and masterful with single note lines, then spacious and supportive behind various soloists” (Northeast Performer). Crosscurrent has performed throughout the New England area, including the Regattabar, Ryles, the Acton Jazz Cafe, and the Press Room. On their most recent CD, **Rituals**, Crosscurrent has been described as “a wonderful and well disciplined group of artists”(The Jazz Zine), and “a group with chops and vision” (Splendidzine). Jazziz notes their “flat-out vitality”.

Eric has also released two bebop CDs as a leader. **The Boston Quartets** features the drumming of the late, great Alan Dawson. Of his new CD, **Herbie Nichols, Vol. 1**, on Summit Records, the Boston Herald’s Bob Young writes “From an unlikely place - Martha’s Vineyard - guitarist Eric Johnson has created an album of music by an underexposed jazz legend - Herbie Nichols - that ranks as one of the year’s best CDs.” Andy Jaffe, Director of Jazz Performance at Williams College and author of the widely acclaimed book *Jazz Harmony*, writes that the CD “successfully sets this difficult music in a manner which every listener will find accessible... The playing is superb and appropriate to the style of the compositions.”

Born in 1966 in Concord, Massachusetts, Eric graduated from a joint-degree program between Tufts University and the New England Conservatory in 1989, with Bachelor’s degrees in English and Jazz Performance. In 1993 he also received a Master’s degree in Classical Guitar Performance from NEC. He has studied with, among others, Mick Goodrick, Dave Holland, George Garzone, and Charlie Banacos. After an active period as a sideman, leader, and composer in the Boston jazz scene, Mr. Johnson moved to New York City in 1995. He now resides on the island of Martha’s Vineyard with his wife and two daughters. In the Fall of 2001 he became an Assistant Professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

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Performances as a leader: The Regattabar (Cambridge, MA), Ryles Jazz Club (Cambridge, MA), the Cambridge Center for Adult Education (Cambridge, MA), Kendall Square Cafe (Cambridge, MA), The Tam (Brookline, MA), The Middle East (Cambridge, MA), Lindsey Chapel (Cambridge, MA), The Acton Jazz Cafe (Acton, MA), Coffee, Tea, and Melody (Stowe, MA), The Press Room (Nashua, NH), Detour (NYC), Kavehaz (NYC), La Linea (NYC), The Wintertide (Tisbury, MA), The Katharine Cornell Theater (Tisbury, MA), Indian Hill Music Center (Littleton, MA), Johnny D's (Somerville, MA), Cornelia Street Cafe (NYC), CAV (Providence, RI), The Salem Wine & Jazz Festival (Salem, MA).

Discography:

Eric T. Johnson with Crosscurrent, *The Island* (Laugh & Jangle)

Crosscurrent, *Crosscurrent* (Laugh & Jangle)

Eric T. Johnson, *The Boston Quartets* (Laugh & Jangle)

Bryan Steele Group, *Bryan Steele* (Wild Pitch)

Eric T. Johnson with Crosscurrent, *By the Sea* (Laugh & Jangle)

Crosscurrent, *Rituals* (Laugh & Jangle)

Eric T. Johnson, *Herbie Nichols, Volume One* (Summit)