

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.

P.O. Box 506, West Tisbury, MA 02575 (508)693-9355 cell (508)274-1757
Eric@EricTJohnson.net www.EricTJohnson.net

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)

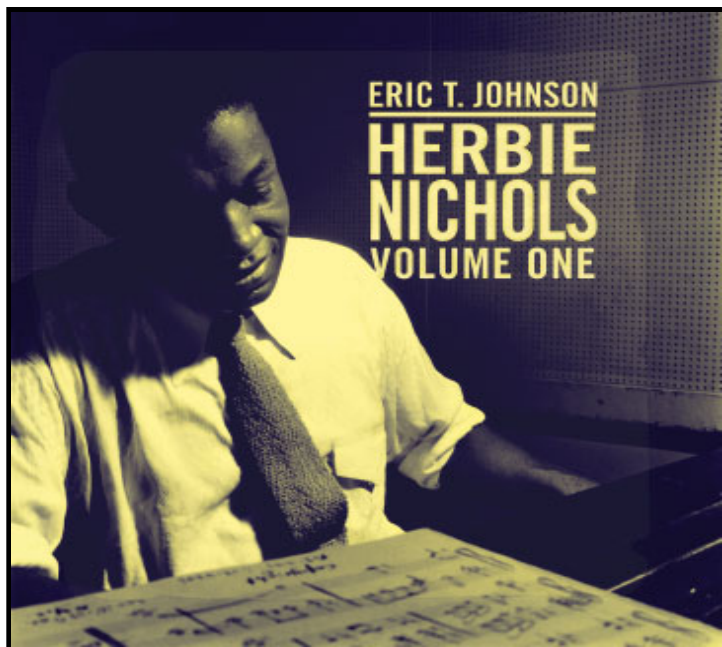
Crosscurrent, *Rituals* (Laugh & Jangle)

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

HERBIE NICHOLS, VOL. 1

Summit Records DCD 351

Distributed by Allegro



Eric T. Johnson	guitars
Phil Grenadier	trumpet
George Garzone	Tenor and Soprano Saxophones
Bob Nieske	bass
Nat Mugavero	drums

Produced by Eric T. Johnson
All music by Herbie Nichols
Transcribed and arranged
by Eric T. Johnson

“One of the year's best CDs.”

- Bob Young, Boston Herald, February 21, 2003

“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.”

- Bob Young, Boston Herald, Friday, February 21, 2003

“Eric Johnson's fine CD of the music of Herbie Nichols successfully sets this difficult music in a manner which every listener will find accessible. His arrangements provide a fresh instrumental context for the work of this underrated but important jazz composer, and he accomplishes this without compromising or diluting Nichols' original musical content. The playing is superb and appropriate to the style of the compositions.”

- Andy Jaffe, Lyell B. Clay Artist-in-Residence in Jazz and Director of Jazz Performance at Williams College.

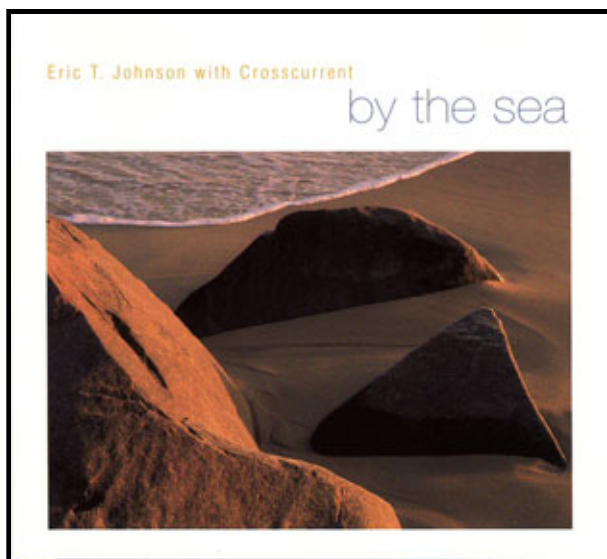
“Thank you and your players for a formidable contribution to this tectonic shift toward the enlightenment of the world's people.”

- Roswell Rudd, famous Jazz trombonist and friend of Nichols.

Summit Records, PO Box 26850, Tempe, Arizona 85285
(480) 491-6429 www.summitrecords.com

By The Sea

(Laugh and Jangle CD 1005)



Eric T. Johnson	electric guitar, 6 & 12 string acoustic guitars, sequencing
Ben Cook	piano/keyboards
Carl Clements	tenor/soprano saxophones
Jim Whitney	basses
Bertram Lehmann	drums/percussion
Ernesto Diaz	shekere/congas
Luciana Souza	vocals (2003 Grammy Nominee)

“With expert support from his band... guitarist Eric T. Johnson offers a picturesque, stylistically varied effort on *By The Sea*. Although Johnson favors a Brazilian-breezy, acoustically layered sound on tunes like the playful album opener ‘Maresia’ and gently melodic ‘A

Biera Mar,’ he is also apt to stretch out in somewhat unexpected directions - ‘Miltonesque,’ a lovely vocalese-driven tribute to Milton Nascimento, breaks down to a majestic club jazz-styled solo, while ‘Gondwanaland’ meditates in hypnotic deep circles of melody and countermelody before Johnson breaks things open with a rock-out solo. The piping ‘Sand in Your Suit’ finds Johnson injecting just a hint of blues in his guitar line, and ‘The Devil’s Bridge’ features driving, full-textured 12-string strum, horns and vocals in powerful parallel strokes.”

- **JazzTimes**, March 1998, Vol. 28, No. 2

“... I can imagine Johnson being the best thing on most commercial Jazz stations ... his willingness to allow his rhythm section the freedom to play, and play it does with a nice swinging, yet always danceable looseness. And he takes advantage of that swing with some sashaying lines. His use of Luciana Souza’s vocals is reminiscent of Corea’s Return to Forever and “Gondwanaland” evokes early Weather Report. Here on “Waiting For The Wind” Johnson dares to engage in some collective improv with saxophonist Carl Clements.

This is proof that accessible Jazz need not be mindless.”

- **Cadence Magazine**, Oct. 1997, Vol. 23 No. 10

“[Eric T. Johnson] is at times richly textured and chordal, then dexterous and masterful with single note lines, then spacious and supportive behind various soloists. On his recent albums [w/Crosscurrent] *The Island* and *By the Sea*, he is guitarist, composer, and producer. “

- **Northeast Performer**, March 1998

Laugh & Jangle Records, PO Box 506, West Tisbury, MA 02575
(508)693-9355 cell (508) 274-1757 www.laughjangle.com info@laughjangle.com

Rituals

(Laugh & Jangle CD 1006)



Eric T. Johnson	guitars
Ben Cook	piano/keyboards
Carl Clements	saxophones/flutes
Joshua Davis	bass
Bertram Lehmann	drums
Norm Bergeron	percussion

Original, melodic, globally influenced Jazz.

“This is a wonderful and well disciplined group of artists playing an all original set of music written solely by the members of the group, with one exception, Guinnevere, penned by David Crosby. All of the musicians play in a spirited and skilled way bringing forth and utilizing an entire genre of musical expressions from all over the globe, while using jazz as the fundamental expression of their music...

Throughout all this CD there is a musicality and originality that the listener instantly becomes aware of. The musicians work harmoniously and one gets an immediate understanding of the sensitivity between them. Seeing this group performing live on a stage, I would imagine, would be intellectually invigorating for any jazz audience. “

- **Peter La Barbera, The Jazz Zine, March 2001**

“Refreshing is perhaps the best description to apply to this CD... The blend of mood, technique and genre results in a rich smorgasbord for listeners to savor.

- **Denai Burbank, JazzReview.com**

“...Rituals displays a group with chops and vision.”

- **Ron Davies, Splendidzine**

“You hear many emotions: thoughtfulness, adventure, strength ... and innocence, so rare in music. I hear echoes of Oregon, the earliest Coryell, Zappa instrumentals, half-forgotten groups like Entourage - the first days of fusion, at its most open-minded. The moods begin with rhythm - either calm cymbals or a cluster of hand-drums - and the guitar of Eric T. Johnson, adding a number of flavors... While it is their third album, this is my first encounter with Crosscurrent. I hope it is not my last. “

- **John Barrett, Jazz USA**

Laugh & Jangle Records, PO Box 506, West Tisbury, MA 02575
(508)693-9355 cell (508) 274-1757 www.laughjangle.com info@laughjangle.com