

Jason Ennis

Guitarist · Composer · Educator

25 Strong Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

(413) 884-4650 · jason@jasonennis.com

EDUCATION

SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, San Francisco, CA 2001-2002

- Graduate studies in Classical guitar performance.
- Private studies with world renowned guitarists, David Tanenbaum and Dušan Bogdanović.

BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, Boston, MA 1996-1997

- Jazz performance, composition and arranging studies.
- Private studies with Mick Goodrick.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, Middlebury, VT 1993-1997

- Bachelor of Arts in Music.
- High Honors in Music.
- Private studies with Paul Asbell (Jazz guitar), Fred Haas (Jazz improvisation), and Thomas Goeghegan (Classical guitar).

ADDITIONAL STUDIES:

- Studied Jazz improvisation with Berklee College of Music professor Hal Crook, Fall of 2000 and August 2020 through May 2021.
- Studied Classical guitar with Williams College faculty member, Robert Phelps, 1999-2000.
- Studied Classical guitar technique and Focal Dystonia recovery with Manhattan School of Music guitar department chair, David Leisner, New York, NY 2003-2005.
- Studied Classical guitar technique and Focal Dystonia recovery with composer and guitarist Dominic Frasca, New York, NY, 2006-2008.
- Additional private studies with Gene Bertoni (Jazz guitar), Freddie Bryant (jazz and Brazilian guitar), Peter Bernstein (jazz guitar), Armen Donelian (jazz improvisation), Luis Leite (classical guitar).
- Attended Interplay Jazz Summer Workshop, 1999-2004.
- Made two extended trips to Brazil (2006-2007). Studied with Choro musicians Marcello Gonçalves and Zé Paulo Becker in Rio, Samba percussionist Bill Lucas in Belo Horizonte.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Hanover, NH 2015-Present

- Lecturer in Music, providing private guitar instruction for Jazz and popular styles.
- Coach rhythm section and combos for MUS 50 and The Coast Jazz Ensemble.
- Designed and teaches MUS 9.01: Introductory Guitar, offered first in Winter term, 2023.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE, Williamstown, MA 2023-Present

- Artist Associate in Jazz Guitar and Co-Director of the Small Jazz Combos.

BERKSHIRE MUSIC SCHOOL, Pittsfield, MA 2016-2021

- Offered instruction in Jazz, Classical, Latin and popular styles.
- In 2020, developed and presented series of online presentations about global music styles for Berkshire County, MA middle and high school students

AUSTEN RIGGS CENTER, Stockbridge, MA 2016-2020

- Offered private music instruction

INTERPLAY JAZZ AND ARTS SUMMER WORKSHOP, Woodstock, VT 2005-Present

- Lead guitar masterclasses, coach small ensembles, and teach classes in Jazz improvisation, vocal accompanying, and ensemble playing.

NORTHFIELD-MOUNT HERMAN SCHOOL, Northfield, MA 2005-2006

- Served as private guitar instructor for Jazz, Classical and popular styles.

FREELANCE GUITAR INSTRUCTOR 1998-Present

- Offer instruction in Jazz, Classical, Latin and popular styles to students of all ages.

CLINICIAN 2005-Present

- Have presented lecture/demonstrations and conducted workshops in guitar technique, Jazz improvisation, ensemble playing and Brazilian rhythms at high schools and colleges including, Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH), Williams College (Williamstown, MA), Appalachian State University (Boone, NC), Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold, MD), Waterbury Arts Magnet School (Waterbury, CT), University of South Carolina (Columbia, SC), University of Las Vegas (Las Vegas, NV), Phoenix College (Phoenix, AZ), City College of San Francisco (San Francisco, CA), and Violeta Parra School of the Arts (Iquique, Chile).

PERFORMING, RECORDING, AND PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

LA VOZ DE TRES [www.lavozdetres.com] 2008-Present

- Co-lead this Latin Jazz trio with Chilean singer Natalia Bernal and pianist Mike Eckroth.
- 2014 release, *Sueños y Delirios*, presented with concerts at The Blue Note NYC, Tuscan Jazz Festival, Tempe Center for the Arts, American Jazz Initiative (NV) and other notable venues.
- 2010 release, *La Voz de Tres*, received critical acclaim and extensive radio play.
- Have toured nationally and in Chile and collaborated with notable musicians such as Paul McCandless (Oregon), Eugene Friesen (Paul Winter Consort).

JOTA SETE/JASON ENNIS QUARTET-QUINTET [jasonennis.com/jota-sete] 2011-Present

- Lead this Jazz ensemble which performs original material as well as arrangements of Jazz and Brazilian compositions. Debut recording, *Jota Sete*, released in June, 2022.

NATALIA BERNAL “EN DIABLADA” [nataliabernal.com] 2012-Present

- Serve as guitarist, co-composer, arranger and musical director for this group that takes its inspiration from the folkloric music of the Andes region and the “Southern Cone.”

TONE FOREST 2018-Present

- Co-lead original music trio with bassist Marty Jaffe and pianist Miro Sprague
- Debut recording *Tone Forest* to be released August 30, 2024 on *Outside in Music*.

BERKSHIRES JAZZ 10x10 COMPOSERS SHOWCASE COMMISSION February, 2023

- Commissioned to compose a piece by *Berkshires Jazz* and the *Milltown Foundation* for their inaugural *10x10 Composers Showcase*, February 25, 2023, Pittsfield, MA.

MUKANA [jasonennis.com/mukana] 2019-2023

- Co-leader and musical director for this 8-piece, collaborative world-fusion project which has performed throughout the Northeast, including at the 2021 FreshGrass festival at Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA.

THE THOMAS BERGERON ENSEMBLE [thomasbergeronmusic.com] 2014-Present

- Recorded on 2015 release, *Sacred Feast*, based on music by Olivier Messiaen.
- Recorded on 2019 release, *We Are a Moment*.

MARY ANN MCSWEENEY'S URBAN FADO PROJECT 2013-Present

- Recorded on 2017 release, *Urban Fado*, featuring original works inspired by Portuguese Fado.

CHORO DA MANHÃ 2012-2015

- Played 7-string guitar in and co-lead this quartet which specialized in Choro, a Brazilian form of music contemporary to North American Ragtime.

THE TESSA SOUTER GROUP 2008-2011

- Played guitar and arranged songs for the singer's 2009 release on Motéma Records, *Obsession*.

THE SONYA KITCHELL BAND 2004-2006

- Played in performance and on the singer's two releases on Starbucks Hear Music/Velour Records, *Cold Day* (2005) and *Words Came Back to Me* (2006).

FREELANCE MUSICIAN 1998-Present

- Perform Jazz, Classical, Brazilian, Latin, Rock and pop styles in numerous settings and venues.
- Have performed and/or recorded with notable musicians and projects such as Karrin Allyson (multi Grammy-nominated jazz singer), Pablo Ziegler (Astor Piazzolla Quintet), Tendai Muparutsa (*Sisi*, 2019) Paul McCandless (Oregon), Charles Neville (The Neville Brothers Band), Paul Green and two Worlds (*A Bissel Rhythm*, 2019), Syndee Winters (*Lena the Lady, Lessons: From a Lady*, 2018) Joe Morton, *Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story*, and many others.

GENE BERTONCINI PLAYS JAZZ STANDARDS 2008-2010

- Worked with Jazz guitar legend Gene Bertoncini, compiling a book of his widely-noted solo guitar arrangements of American Songbook tunes, 10 of which were published by the Hal Leonard Corporation in the book *Gene Bertoncini Plays Jazz Standards*.