



The Editor's Pick

By **Tony Mottola**
Jersey Jazz Editor

Monroe Quinn: Going Solo



Monroe Quinn

Monroe Quinn learned to play the guitar in the Riverside Drive apartment of the great, and sadly underappreciated, jazz guitarist Remo Palmier. Palmier (who began his career as Palmieri and later dropped the last "i") worked with Coleman Hawkins, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Sarah Vaughan and others, and later as a studio musician who was greatly respected by his peers but less known in the jazz world at large.

The late Palmier was clearly impressed with his prodigy, describing him as "...a musician of integrity and dedication. He has a decided talent for writing a melodic jazz line that lasts."

That comment could easily serve as a capsule review of Quinn's new solo guitar CD *On Riverside Drive* (Monroe Quinn MCD7873).

The CD is a celebration of people who have inspired Quinn, both in his personal and professional life, consisting of 10 well-crafted original compositions played on electric, acoustic and 12-string guitar. "It's a musical 'thank you' to some of the people I am most grateful for," says Quinn. "Each song is dedicated to a different person. Pat Metheny, Julian Bream, Donald Delo — who was my favorite English teacher — my wife and my brother...I wanted to express the gratitude I feel for them and channel that inspiration into the compositions and improvisations."

His mentor is remembered both in the CD's title and the catchy and funky "Blues a la Remo." Quinn displays great versatility on the recording, playing in a variety of styles and achieving a range of sounds using several different instruments played both finger-style and with a pick.

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"It's a jazz album," says Quinn. "But on songs like 'By George' and 'A Song for Joy' you don't have to look too far to hear rock or classical influences. And I think that's a good thing!"

A very good thing for sure. If you're a fan of solo jazz guitar you're encouraged to visit www.monroequinn.com where you can hear brief samples of the CD's cuts as well as view four well-produced full-length videos of other Quinn solo performances.

Comments?

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