

## Guitarist's resum features who's who of jazz world's greats

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GUITARIST Gene Bertoncini has a light touch on his instrument, but it's backed with a heavyweight resum .

The Eastman School of Music teacher has performed in the Benny Goodman Sextet and with other jazz greats such as Wayne Shorter, Clark Terry, Paul Desmond and singers Tony Bennett and Lena Horne.

Bertoncini performs here next Sunday in two shows as part of COOL Concerts (formerly the **Asper Foundation Jazz Performances**) solo and in a duo with bassist Sean Smith.

Expect standards -- "different treatments of them" -- and some Bossa Nova and maybe a taste of classical, Bertoncini said in an interview from his New York City home.

"I use a nylon string guitar and classical techniques for jazz," he said. "I can treat the guitar like an orchestra."

He'll have an arch-top electric with him as well, but "that is more for linear playing, like a sax," he said. He can play more harmonies with the acoustic nylon string and can more easily accompany bassist Smith when he solos.

Bertoncini said he's looking forward to performing here; his last stop in Winnipeg was about 20 years ago when he toured Canada with a trio.

The guitarist studied with many guitar greats, such as Johnny Smith and Chuck Wayne, the original guitarist with the George Shearing Quintet. He also listened to early Benny Goodman recordings that featured Charlie Christian. They taught him "to think about the guitar as its own force."

"Later, I was enthralled by (former Winnipegger) Lenny Breau. He was someone to look up to and say, 'Hey, you can do this.'"

He also likes a lot of the newer generation of jazz guitarists, like Russell Malone, Mick Goodrick, John Scofield, Kurt Rosenwinkel and, especially, Ben Monder, Bertoncini's successor at the New England Conservatory of Music and a member of the Maria Schneider Orchestra, among other projects.

Bertoncini performs next Sunday at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Berney Theatre, 123 Doncaster St. Tickets (\$30 plus taxes and agency fees) are available from Ticketmaster, 780-3333.

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Trumpeter Patrice Barbanchon decided to work without a net for his first album -- a live recording from Toronto club Brownstone Bistro.

The former Winnipegger, who is teaching and performing in Toronto, was performing a regular gig at the club with another former Winnipegger, bassist Gord Mowat, and drummer Kevin Brow when they recorded Trio Nouveau Live.

Barbanchon has finished his music studies at Humber College and is teaching trumpet at the Toronto Faculty of Music and performing with the trio, in a Latin band called Plan-C, and in other groups.

He has approached European jazz festival organizers about a tour next summer and will contact Canadian festivals as well. "It's looking good for Europe. I've talked to about 110 festivals," he said in an interview from Toronto.

Barbanchon is determined to make a career as a jazz musician. "The album is the first step," he said, "and the tour is the next step."

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