

DirkK.com

Dirk K

Guitarist



ABOUT:

Origin: Germany

Genre: Jazz

Label: DIP Records

Official Websites: dirkk.com

Contact via phone US-310-972-9839

HOME BASE: Las Vegas, NV

INSTRUMENTS: Guitar

Colleagues:

Paul Taylor, Rick Braun, Eric Marienthal, C.C. Thomas Jr., Randy Brecker, Toots Thielemans, Brandon Fields, Peter Erskine, Dave Weckl, Terri Lyne Carrington, Tony Moore, Kevin Flournoy, Darryl Williams.

PAST PERFORMANCES:

- Spaghetini (Seal Beach)
- Downey Theatre (Downey)
- Jazz On The Lake (Lake Mission Viejo)
- Gospel Jazz in the City (Gardina)
- Festival of The Arts (Laguna Beach)
- Rib Fest (Minneapolis)
- Gas Lamp Quarter Jazz Festival (San Diego)
- The Oasis Jazz Festival (Dallas)
- Liege Jazz Festival (Belgium)
- Wine and Balloon Festival (Temecula)
- The American Arts Festival (Sacramento)
- Bellagio Concert Series (Las Vegas)
- Multiple Europe tours

COLLABORATIONS : Performed with Joe McBride Band. Opened for Al Jarreau, Paul Taylor & Sonny Rollins. Season opener for Newport Beach Hyatt Jazz concert series. Collaborations with Michael Paulo, Rick Braun, Paul Taylor, Toots Thielemans, Brandon Fields, Gary Meek, Eric Marienthal, Jeanette Harris.

NOTEWORTHY: Dirk K released 23 CD's. 14 CD's as a recording artist and 9 CD's with his band projects. His release Dirk K - "About You" on ULG/ Countdown Records produced 2 singles that charted top 10 in NAC music radio. He toured multiple times in the US and Europe. Dirk K received his Green Card for extraordinary abilities in the field of music in order to perform and reside in the USA.

Career highlights are playing the National Anthem for the LA Lakers at the Staples Center, receiving a Shaq hero award by Shaquille O' Neal, and receiving an award in recognition of outstanding exemplary service and support from the Raiders wide receiver Tim Brown.

REVIEWS: With his crisp, snappy and often hypnotic electric lines, veteran guitarist Dirk K lets us know from the opening minute of the coolly percussive title track of his latest full length collection that IT'S ON. This mid-tempo delight, which features an exciting tonal and rhythmic shift midway through as the grooves ease into Trip-Hop, is at the core of an engaging set, full of fresh fun like you'll hear on "Snap Jam" and "Toxic," plus, silky original ballads and covers galore including "Holding Back The Years," "That's The Way of the World" and "Lovesong," as well as the first ever Smooth Jazz re-imagining of "Funkytown." Ah yeah... IT'S ON is an album you won't want to turn off! ~ JONATHAN WIDRAN

Dirk K - It's On

To state what you will see as the obvious, German-born guitarist Dirk K is no stranger to jazz. Having placed 14 solo albums under his belt since the 1990s, he has also recorded over 30 albums for other artists, including Randy Brecker, Peter Erskine, Toots Thielemans, Dave Weckl, Brandon Fields, Alan Pasqua, Marc Johnson, Terri Lyne

Carrington, Gary Meek, Rick Braun, and others. To say he is well-seated in this biz is an understatement.

His latest, *It's On*, is a confident showing of competence and meticulous skill as he plays all of the instruments here with the exception of contributions on select tracks by cellist Dena Massaro-Williams, saxophonist Philip Antony, bassist C.C. Thomas Jr., and keyboardist Otto Ehling. The material here is slick and polished, combining solid originals with great covers. The oft-multi-instrumentalist takes you on his personal journey through original hooks and bright melodies (found on such tracks as the up-tempo lead track "Snap Jam" – which features some nifty finger work – and the cool, mid-tempo title track) along with vivid interpretations of the tunes he covers ("e.g., Britney Spears' "Toxic," Simply Red's "Holding Back the Years," The Cure's "Lovesong," Lipps Inc.'s "Funkytown," and Earth, Wind & Fire's classic "That's the Way of the World").

As Dirk K has spent a great deal of time with standards and the world of straight-ahead jazz, there is that straight-ahead influence detected throughout this project, which makes it all the more interesting if only because of the way in which he weaves it into the fabric of the material. Personally, I am not big on an abundance of cover tunes on a project, but Dirk K offers a handsome perspective on the tracks that made it rather easy to accept and just groove with it all. For example, I have never heard an interpretation of EWF's track as Dirk K presents it here – a laid-back, bluesy rendition reminding one of a lazy summer evening sunset. Would I have preferred more original material? Sure, especially since he shows here an adeptness at capturing the smooth jazz mood. Still, the project has presence and is effective in conveying a satisfying vibe. – Ronald Jackson

