

Renowned for his mature, melodic sound and elegant, lyrical style of writing and playing, guitarist Garrison Fewell has established himself as a distinctive voice throughout his 30-year career. Critics have called him "one of today's most personal guitar players" (*Boston Phoenix*), "an assured stylist with a strong sense of tradition" (*The New Yorker*), "a player of virtuosity and swinging intensity" (UPI), and "refined, passionate, and inspiring" (*Guitar Player*). His diverse discography, beginning with 1993's Boston Music Award-winning "A Blue Deeper Than the Blue" (Accurate), counts multiple titles ranked on best of the year lists in publications like *Coda*, *Guitar Player*, *Musica Jazz*, and his hometown *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The long list of prominent Fewell sidemen on record includes pianists Fred Hersch, Jim McNeely and George Cables, bassists Cecil McBee and Steve LaSpina, and drummer Matt Wilson to name just a few.

In the last several years, Garrison has expanded beyond the modern-mainstream sound to play "free" and improvised music with artists such as vibist Khan Jamal and saxophonist John Tchicai. He has recorded an upcoming release, "Big Chief Dreaming", for Soul Note Records, featuring John Tchicai.

As a leader, Garrison has performed at NYC's Blue Note and Birdland Jazz Clubs, and toured in the US, South America, Africa, Caribbean, Canada and Europe. He has played at major jazz festivals such as Montreux, North Sea, Umbria, Clusone, Veneto Jazz, Copenhagen, Krakow, Budapaest, Quebec, Cape Verde, Africa, and Asuncion, Paraguay. He has performed with renowned artists such as Tal Farlow, Larry Coryell, Benny Golson, Billy Harper, John Tchicai, Zbigniew Namyslowski, Steve Grossman, Herbie Hancock, Fred Hersch, Hal Galper, George Cables, Cecil McBee, Buster Williams, Miroslav Vitous, Steve LaSpina, Cameron Brown, Harvie Swartz, Michael Formanek, Tim Hagans, Cecil Bridgewater, Kenny Wheeler, Jimmy Owens, Dusko Goykovich, Khan Jamal, Norma Winstone, Jay Clayton, and Slide Hampton.

An internationally respected jazz educator, Fewell has been a Professor of Guitar and Ear Training at Boston's Berklee College of Music since 1977 and has given clinics at more than 40 prestigious conservatories in Europe alone, authored a textbook called *Jazz Improvisation*, and served as a lesson contributor to *Guitar Player*, *Guitar Club* and *Axe* magazines.

#### Active Ensembles:

Garrison Fewell Quartet featuring George Cables

Garrison Fewell Trio featuring Khan Jamal and Cameron Brown

Garrison Fewell Trio featuring Attilio Zanchi and Gianni Cazzola

John Tchicai/Garrison Fewell Quintet (debut release forthcoming on Soul Note)

John Tchicai/Charlie Kohlhase/Garrison Fewell Trio

Reviews of Garrison's recordings have been published in a variety of international jazz magazines:

“His beautiful tone and effortless, fluid lines draw the listener in as only a select few have done...a fine guitarist who appeals on the sublime, emotional level of a Bill Evans or a Jim Hall.” —James Rozzi, *Wired*

“His active imagination is restless; his musical intelligence is acute; his standards are high.”—Thomas Conrad, *DownBeat*

“Pat Martino’s adventurous melodies, Kenny Burrell’s unhurried swing, and Jim Hall’s pensive harmonies echo within Fewell’s laid-back playing. He’s got a mature, lived-in sound that’s simultaneously cerebral and blue.”—Andy Ellis, *Guitar Player*

“Continually surprising change-ups in phrasing, technique and timing, along with a perceptive balance between forward linear motion and shifting horizontal timbres are the hallmarks of Fewell’s style.”—Milo Fine, *Cadence*

“...his recordings highlight his refined style, where carefully polished phrases are connected with logic and dressed with a velvety clean, brilliant sound.”—*Musica Jazz* (Italy)

“Fewell is a refined and gifted player whose Gibson L5 asserts itself with a round, full-tone. The synthesis of tradition and modernity is achieved in a clear and tasteful manner, both for modal forms and standards, as well as original compositions...”—Andrea Memeo, *All About Jazz Italia*

“...with phrasing that is simply flawless...he digs into harmonies with a clear and unique style, free of cliché.”—M. Ariodante, *Axe* (Italy)

“Guitarist Garrison Fewell is a find...one of the music’s best kept secrets. A fine composer and a sure stylist with a hearty mahogany tone...”—Bob Young, *Jazziz*

“Garrison Fewell performs flawlessly on guitar, gliding over the chords effortlessly.”—Steven Loewy, *All Music Guide*

“Guitarist Garrison Fewell has the maturity to appreciate the importance of connecting the dots: fitting ideas together and making them work.”—Nils Jacobson, *All About Jazz*

"The very title of Fewell's first Accurate CD - A Blue Deeper Than the Blue - suggests the layered indigo shades and poetic echoes heard from his guitar. Each note has shape and substance, each solo definition and flexibility... legato phraseology, ripe emotions, pristine beauties of sound." - *Jazz Times*

Selected Discography:

A Blue Deeper Than Blue (1993, Accurate Records)

with Fred Hersch (p), Cecil McBee (b), and Matt Wilson (dr).

"...a subtle jewel of a debut album, one that instantly places him in the top rank of jazz guitarists anywhere."—*Boston Herald*

Reflection of a Clear Moon (1995, Accurate Records)

Duo with pianist Laszlo Gardony recorded for National Hungarian Radio, Budapest. Awarded Top Ten Best Jazz of 1995 by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Birdland Sessions (2000, Koch Jazz)

with Jim McNeely (p), Steve LaSpina (b), and Jeff William (dr)

"Birdland Sessions is probably most significant for his catchy originals...several deserve to be interpreted by other players and have the potential to become future standards."— *All Music Guide*

Red Door Number 11 (2003, Splasc(H) Records)

with George Cables (p), Attilio Zanchi (b), and Gianni Cazzola (dr)

"Red Door is a lot like the timeless '60s duet recordings Bill Evans made with Jim Hall in more than a few ways. In the best ways, really. Provided you have the maturity to appreciate understatement, Red Door Number 11 is an unqualified success."—*All About Jazz*