



Sebastien Lanson

Jazz Guitarist/Composer

“His silky lines and impeccable timing is a delightful reminder of how good the guitar can sound and he does it with amazing clarity!” says KCSM Jazz DJ, Jayne Sanchez. Since Sebastien’s arrival in the U.S. in 1998 from his home town of Paris, France, he has established himself as a versatile jazz artist, referred to by Louie Bellson as “one of the world’s brilliant young guitarists.”

Taking up the guitar at age 14, he began formal training one year later with his aunt, Marie-Nonne Lanson, a professional classical performer and teacher. His musical education continued at the American School of Modern Music in Paris, an affiliate of The Berklee College of Music in Boston, spending four years studying composition, improvisation, and arranging. In France, he played in some of the most famous Parisian jazz clubs, including Le Duca des Lombards, Alliance Jazz Club and Le Petit Journal.



His U.S. career began when Fred Berry, the director of the Stanford University Jazz Orchestra, invited him to play with his orchestra, and with some of the greatest jazz musicians in the world. They included such major artists as Bobby Hutcherson, Bob Florence, Wycliff Gordon, Billy Higgins, John L. Worley, Jr. and Louie Bellson.

Only a few months after arriving in the U.S. he recorded with The Stanford Jazz Orchestra featuring Louie Bellson, an experience that brought attention to his “pensive, yet definitely swinging style” as described by Berry. It also proved to be a stepping-stone to recording with Full Spectrum Jazz Orchestra (Rayna’s Dance), The Collective West Jazz Orchestra (Downbeat 9:30), and John L. Worley Jr. (WorView).

His years as a San Francisco Bay Area jazz guitarist have culminated in the recent release of his debut CD, “In Transition”. He is joined by the heavyweight supporting cast of John Santos, Charlie McCarthy, John L. Worley Jr, Wayne Wallace, and others. After hearing the recording, Louie Bellson remarked that “His solos throughout are fresh and exciting....” and noted “His role as a skillful, creative composer and arranger...”

Sebastien is a regular participant at the major California jazz venues, among them the San Jose Jazz festival, the Pacifica Jazz Festival, and Jazz on the Hill. For the past four years, he has been a teacher and performer at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, one of the most well known jazz workshops in the world. He also toured Europe, playing at The Montreux Jazz Festival, Switzerland, the North Sea Jazz Festival, Holland, The Vienne Jazz Festival, France, and The Umbria Jazz Festival, Italy.