

Acoustic Romance

GUITAR MASTER GENE BERTONCINI LEADS TRIO WITH AKIRA TANA & RUFUS REID

A guitarist who takes “soft, seductive jazz to new levels of grace and adventure...”
— Daniel Gewertz, *The Boston Herald*

New York, NY - Sons of Sound proudly announces the September 2, 2003 release of *Acoustic Romance* (SSPCD017), a quietly beautiful jazz recording featuring the guitar and arrangements of Gene Bertoncini on a program of classic songs that includes “The Shadow of Your Smile,” “Gone With The Wind,” “Stella By Starlight,” “Two For The Road,” “Emily,” and other love themes.

In a piece written for *The New Yorker*, Whitney Balliet described Bertoncini as “an affecting, highly original guitarist who moves easily back and forth between classical and jazz guitar.” Bassist and frequent collaborator Michael Moore describes Bertoncini as “a melodic improviser. What he’s after is a beautiful melody.” An architect by training, Bertoncini is acutely aware of arrangement and harmonic structure while applying his prodigious technique to express that beauty.

Gene Bertoncini is unique in his application of classical, nylon-stringed guitar to jazz, an instrumentation that allows him to explore classical and Brazilian styles in his arrangements and improvisation. A recognized master of the instrument, his improvisational sensitivity is melodic, his approach disciplined and respectful.

Audiences are currently being treated to live solo performances of these arrangements. Mr. Bertoncini’s concert performances have been described by Bob Blumenthal in *The Boston Globe* as “the most beautiful jazz to be heard.” Now these arrangements can be enjoyed for the first time in a trio context, supported by a rhythm section of comparable stature.

Drummer Akira Tana is an active performer and clinician whose credits span 22 years and include Kenny Burrell, Sonny Rollins, Zoot Sims, Sonny Stitt, Cedar Walton, and Dizzy Gillespie. Bassist Rufus Reid has played among legends such as Gene Ammons, Kenny Dorham, Eddie Harris, Sonny Stitt, Don Byas, Philly Joe Jones, Thad Jones, Mel Lewis, Dexter

Gordon, Bill Evans, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, and Art Farmer.

Sons of Sound is an independent jazz label founded in 1997 to support musicians who support music education. Among many educational endeavors, Mr. Bertoncini was the musical director of the first annual *Swing 'N Jazz* event in Rochester, NY, a three-day celebration of music education with workshops, concerts, and a fund-raising golf tournament for the benefit of The Commission Project, a music education nonprofit. Messrs. Tana and Reid are dedicated music educators in their own right.

Through commerce as well as education, the label strives to bring artistic jazz and classical music to a broader popular audience, under the marketing tag "Popular Culture." With *Acoustic Romance*, the label is making a conscious attempt to bridge a love of jazz artistry with an appreciation for contemporary graphics and popular music. The *Acoustic Romance* recording has much to offer traditional jazz audiences as well as contemporary listeners drawn to the vibe of '60s Bacharach or '00s lounge or chill-out. Indeed it was Mr. Bertoncini who originally provided the guitar work many of Mr. Bacharach's resurgently popular hits.

Akira Tana and Rufus Reid are set to return in 2004 with another trio project for Sons of Sound, *Moon Over The World* with pianist Ted Lo. Until then, they may be heard on Mr. Tana's *Secret Agent Men* (Sons of Sound SSPCD012). Mr. Tana also provides the groove for *Girl Talk* by Jodi Stevens (Sons of Sound SSPCD011).

For additional information see the label's web site at <http://sonsofsound.com/>. For more about The Commission Project, see <http://tcp-music.org/>.

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