

FREDDIE BRYANT
WWW.FREDDIEBRYANT.COM
freddiebryant@yahoo.com
646-373-7069

The great guitarist Kenny Burrell wrote, “Freddie Bryant is a brilliant young guitarist and composer.” He is a versatile musician skilled both in jazz and classical music. Freddie is currently in demand in the New York jazz scene where he works with Ben Riley’s Monk Legacy Septet (“Memories of T” on Concord Records), The Ben Riley Quartet (new CD release – March, ’12), the Mingus Orchestra and his own group, **KALEIDOSCOPE** whose new CD was just released in Oct. ’12 on the HiPNOTIC record label.

2014 marked the release of Bryant’s seventh CD, ***Dreamscape: Solo, Duo, Trio*** which features the stellar cast of Chris Potter – reeds and Scott Colley – bass as well as the leader playing four guitars: Telecaster, Jazz arch-top, classical and 12-string. Jazz writer Bill Milkowski wrote: “*Imbued with Bryant’s inimitable touch, inherent soulfulness and the element of surprise, Dreamscape: Solo-Duo-Trio is also marked by the guitarist’s ability to seamlessly traverse the classical-jazz divide on this collection of jazz standards and compelling originals.*”

Freddie has also had the honor of touring with three legends of the music world: African singer, *Salif Keita*, the virtuoso klezmer clarinetist, Maestro *Giora Feidman* and the jazz trumpet great, *Tom Harrell* (as a member of his quintet, 1999-2001). He has recorded and/or played with *Tom Harrell, D.D. Jackson, Steve Wilson, Kevin Hays, Brad Mehldau, Chris Potter*, bassist *Avishai Cohen, Rosanna Vitro, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Sheila Jordan, Randy Brecker, David Sanchez, Joshua Redman, Wynton Marsalis, Max Roach, Lonnie Smith* and many others. He is also on the first call list of many singers and Brazilian musicians because of his sensitive accompanying and his knowledge of Brazilian guitar and has toured with pianist/singer *Eliane Elias*.

Over the years he has toured in 50 countries and has had the opportunity of collaborating with musicians from a wide variety of backgrounds including the Indian sitarist, *Shubhendra Rao*, the Kenyan singers, *Achien’g Abura, Suzanna Owiyo*, the Taarab master oud player *Zein L’abdin* and traditional groups in Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. In 2006 he performed in Cuba as a solo artist and spent a week of musical exchange with Cuban musicians including the trumpet player, “*El Greco*” formerly of Irakere. He has toured as a cultural ambassador for The U.S. Department of State four times and performed at the Kennedy Center with the *Billy Taylor Trio* appearing on National Public Radio Show, “Live at the Kennedy Center.”

This international experience has energized and inspired his music as is evident in the exciting CD with his Kaleidoscope group from 2012, Entitled *Live Grooves...Epic Tales* it features a powerful front line of *Donny McCaslin* (tenor) and *Yosvany Terry* (alto) with a grooving rhythm section of *Patrice Blanchard* (electric bass) and *Willard Dyson* (drums). It also features guest appearances by master saxophonist, *Steve Wilson* and

Spanish pianist, *Juan Galiardo*. The music is a kaleidoscope of rhythms and influences including soulful Gospel, driving Indian/Middle Eastern, sensual Bolero and funky New Orleans rhythms in addition to Brazilian and Afro-Cuban rhythms.

His previous CDs as a leader include: *Brazilian Rosewood, Boogaloo Brasileiro, Live at Smoke* (Fresh Sound Records) and *Take Your Dance into Battle* (Jazz City Spirit). He has two recent self-titled CDs with collaborative groups: *Trio del Sol* with *Misha Piatogorsky* and *Gilad* and *Dharma Jazz* with *Lewis Porter, Badal Roy* and *Karttikeya*.

Education has always been a large part of his musical life. He has taught all ages from young children to university students and has lectured about jazz to audiences around the world. In 2004 he was chosen to be a Copeland Fellow at Amherst. He received his BA from Amherst College '87 and Master's degree in classical guitar from the Yale School of Music. He currently is on the faculty at the Berklee College of Music and the Prins Claus Conservatory in Groningen, Holland. He was previously a professor in the Africana Studies and Music departments at Williams College.



"Guitarist Freddie Bryant is a rhythmic and melodic sponge. Put him in any musical situation, be it classical, jazz, funk, Senegalese, etc., and he'll tend to become one with the music."

Jason Koransky, www.downbeatjazz.com