

CALVIN KEYS JAZZ GUITARIST

For over a quarter century legendary musicians such as Earl Fatha' Hines, Ray Charles, Ahmad Jamal and Pharoah Sanders have sought out *Calvin Keys* for his considerable skills as jazz guitarist, bandleader, composer and arranger.

Calvin Keys "legendary guitarist" is listed in the Leonard Feather as the "Encyclopedia of Jazz," and his professional career spans over thirty years. *Keys*, is warmly received by audiences throughout the world earning international respect and acclaim as a Master of Jazz. Despite his fine work, the acclaim due an artist of his stature has eluded *Calvin* until the 90's.

Calvin Keys recent world tour with Ahmad Jamal, which include stops at Carnegie Hall, the JVC Jazz Festival and Salle Pleyel, France, has earned him rave reviews and caught the public's ear. Verve Records recorded the concert "live" at the famed Salle Pleyel.

The tour has also bolstered sales of *Keys*' debut release on LifeForce Records, *Standard Keys*, as well as his catalogue of earlier works Olive Branch Records and the European Black jazz label.

Jazz Heritage Guitars recently honored *Keys* with a creation of a *Calvin Keys* Golden Eagle model guitar, which includes him in a guitar series that features guitarists Johnny Smith, Henry Johnson and Roy Clark.

The Omaha, Nebraska-born guitarist spent most of the '60s playing with organ trios including those of Frank Edwards, Jackie Ivory, Jackie Davis, Jack McDuff and with the king of them all - Jimmy Smith. *Keys* has performed and recorded with some of the incomparable greats such as Ray Charles, Carmen McCrea, Gloria Lynn, Donald Byrd, Bobby Hutcherson, Joe Henderson, M.C. Hammer and Luther Vandross, just to name a few. During the '70's, *Keys* completed a six year stint with jazz great "Ahmad Jamal."

As an improviser of the first order, he is not conventional to the usual running eight-note hop guitar clichés but is one of the most creative guitarists in jazz today. He has developed a special affinity for working with pianists, and confesses, "I try to make my guitar sound like a piano, which is very difficult." As a master technician, he plays and fills the air with melodic and rhythmic invention.

Keys, resides in Oakland, California, where in addition to performing in major festivals, he continues to take recording dates as a feature guitarist. He still finds time to be involved with jazz programming in the San Francisco Bay Area schools, colleges, music camps and community organizations.

"IF YOU LOVE JAZZ... YOU'LL LOVE CALVIN"!!!