

For Immediate Release

**SILVERADO RECORDS TO RELEASE *HAND MADE PORTRAIT*,
THE NEW ALBUM FROM LEGENDARY JAZZ GUITARIST CALVIN KEYS
ON MAY 1, 2007**

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007, **Silverado Records** will release Oakland, CA-based jazz guitar great **Calvin Keys**' newest album *Hand Made Portrait*. Keys's sophomore release for the label – his critically-acclaimed label debut *Calvinesque* (#30 on the Jazz Week jazz charts) was released in 2005 – *Hand Made Portrait* is a beguiling blend of classic Broadway show tunes (Accustomed to Your Face) Great American Songbook (I'll remember April) Brazilian bossa nova (Wave) and venerable jazz standards (Little Niles) (Good Bait) and (Naima).

“These were some of the songs that I had been playing over the years and I just wanted to go in and record them,” says Keys. “I just like these songs and I just play what I *like*; I play what I *feel*. And I'm paying compliments to some of the greatest writers who ever lived.” Aided and abetted by drummer **David Rokeach** throughout and bassists **Mark “Heshima” Williams**, **Jeff Chambers** and **Matt Montgomery** on alternate tracks, the guitarist claims these songs as his own.

The title of this new Calvin Keys joint alludes to both the instrument the songs are played on – Heritage Guitars' 'hand made' “Calvin Keys Golden Eagle Custom model -- and his artistic *raison d'être*”. “To me it's about musical painting,” he muses. “That's what I do – come up with different ideas and different arrangements to evoke the poetry, use my guitar as my brush, and then paint musical portraits with my hands.”

Like a gifted dauber of pigment, Keys' *Hand Made Portrait* style is a collective reflection/conflation of the iconic masters who he studied under during his formative years. In this guitarist's case, that means Hammond B3 organ gods **Jimmy Smith**, **Jack McDuff**, and **Richard “Groove” Holmes**, **Ray Charles** and **Ahmad Jamal**. “People say that's 'old school', but I call it the *real* school,” he laughs.

Calvin was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1943. A guitar prodigy, he had his first professional gig at the age of 14. In 1973, he got The Gig That Changed His Life: Ahmad Jamal. Seven years later, Calvin left his mentor to pursue a rewarding solo career.

Hand Made Portrait signals his ascension to the next level. “I feel that now I've established my own sound, my spirit, my *worth* as a guitarist over the years and I'm enjoying every note that I'm playing now more so than I ever had. Because you do not get older in what you do, you get *better*.”

Hand Made Portrait is available online at www.silveradomusic.com and www.calvinkeys.com

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