

MICHAEL COPPOLA

Jazz Ensemble

"Impressive virtuosity"

—David Lewis , *Cadence Magazine*

Michael Coppola began playing guitar at the age of eleven. His foundation was established through the combination of classical fingerstyle guitar lesson and studies with jazz artist Sal Salvador. He pursued his education at the Boston Conservatory of Music; in Austria, at Die Hochschule Für Music, where he studied serial and atonal composition with Günther Kahowitz; and later in Manhattan with jazz master Walter Bishop Jr.

In 1980 Michael won 1st place in the Ovation Guitar Company's national competition. He released his *Jet Blue* recording in 1987. The album, which received international attention, is a collection of jazz standards and originals all played on unaccompanied nylon string guitar.

Playing in a trio with master pianist John Mehegan inspired Coppola to overstep the technical boundaries of the guitar. In an attempt to achieve those same tightly voiced chords and pedaled legato phrases used by contemporary jazz keyboardists, he created the concept of the 8 string guitar. This original design, built by luthier James DeCava, requires inner rather than extra bass or treble side strings. In 1997 Michael recorded *Virtuoso Too* on his new instrument.

In 2000 Michael Coppola expanded his own idea to incorporate a 9th string. This guitar, also made by James DeCava, is known in jazz guitar circles as the "Hydra". On this instrument, Michael has recorded 4 more albums. Reviews of Coppola's work are filled with descriptions like *unique, different, mind boggling, magical, inventive, virtuosity*, etc.

Michael Coppola's album, *Return Of The Hydra* was chosen as a top ten pick for the year 2002 in *Coda Magazine*. His original composition "Movin", released on *New Impressions*, was a runner up in the 2002 John Lennon Song Competition.

Reviews and articles about his work have appeared in numerous magazines including *Guitar Player*, *Just Jazz Guitar*, *20th Century Guitar*, etc. For more information about Michael Coppola logon to www.9string.com. Michael performs at national guitar shows, festivals and concerts as well as smaller venues in New England. He is on the New England Commission For The Arts Touring Roster.

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Discography:

Jet Blue
(Tico Records) solo 6-string-nylon 1987

Virtuoso Too
(Kalo) solo 8-string-electric

Enter The Hydra
(String Jazz)
Trio with bassist Phil Bowler, drummer Paul Hannah

Return Of The Hydra
(String Jazz)
Trio with bassist Michael Nunno, drummer Kurt Berglund

Guess Who I Saw Today
(String Jazz)
Duo with vocalist Rhonda Thomas

New Impressions
(Kalo)
Quartet with bassist, James Andrews
Alto saxophonist, Tim Moran
Drummer, Arti Dixon

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A mixture of precision and beauty... totally unique... extremely difficult intervallic stretches and alluring complex sonorities... terrific!

Jim Fisch, *20th Century Guitar Magazine*

Uncommon flexibility... furnishes a broad tonal palette... accompanies himself by inducing melody, harmony and rhythm from his instrument all without the benefit of overdubbing... The Hydra is here to stay.

Jack Bowers, *Cadence Magazine*

Unique guitarist... the only person on the planet that can play his custom-made 8-string guitar... fast arpeggios and glissandos defy guitar logic... guitar playing listeners will be unable to comprehend how one guitar can play it... mind boggling... how on earth did he play that?... there is evidence that Michael Coppola is right and the other Six and Seven Stringers are missing something!

Andy MacKenzie, *Just Jazz Guitar*

Michael Coppola has chops to burn!

James Hale, *Coda Magazine*

Coppola performs with unbelievable dexterity and depth... is this one guitar or two?... his magical 8-string guitar becomes an invention bigger than itself... this is free and unexplored territory.

Frankie Haard, *Green Mountain Jazz Messenger*

Coppola with his digital dexterity gets a deeper, fuller sound from the guitar... it sounds as if there are two Johnny Smiths playing... he extends considerably the capabilities of the guitar.

Dave Nathan, *All Music Guide*

Inventive; memorable; imaginative; Jazz Guitar music at its finest.

Lee Prosser, *jazzreview.com*

Impressive virtuosity... elegant ease... Little is predictable about this man's music... Coppola's articulation and tone convey unusual warmth... distinctive talent...

David Lewis, *Cadence Magazine*

Coppola's unique 9-string guitar and its requisite tuning represent a stunning solution to his desire to play piano-like voicings unavailable to the 6-string player... No other guitarist I know sounds like he does... a unique and varied approach to writing.

Jim Fisch, *20th Century Guitar Magazine*

**For bookings:
Michael Coppola at 203-913-8803
E-mail: enterthehydra@aol.com
Visit: www.9string.com**