

Peter Ciluzzi, Guitarist & Composer

Guitarist Peter Ciluzzi transports listeners on a journey through virtuosic, evocative compositions that tell a story without words. With a distinctive, timeless sound that is both familiar and unexpected, his music defies easy categorization and reflects a wide range of influences including jazz, rock, classical, bluegrass and world music. Raised in a small town in coastal Massachusetts, Ciluzzi developed an appreciation of the arts at a young age and took up guitar when he was a child. Mainly a self-taught musician, he has also studied jazz and improvisation as well as classical composition and has written a number of orchestral and electronic works in addition to his solo guitar recordings. A finalist in the 2007 Canadian Fingerstyle Guitar Competition, he has toured and performed throughout the US and shared the stage with the likes of Antoine Dufour, Ewan Dobson, Pino Forastiere, and Gareth Pearson. The broad nature of his musical interests also extends into guitar design and construction; having studied lutherie with Charles Fox, he started Ciluzzi Guitars in 2006 and has displayed at a number of exhibitions including the Montreal Guitar Show.

Peter Ciluzzi's music reflects his comprehensive approach to the guitar and his lifelong study of all things musical. An enthusiast and devoted student of many styles of music, his output often defies easy categorization and reflects a diverse range of influences including jazz, bluegrass, and flamenco guitar as well as contemporary fingerstyle guitar; classical and electronic music and the study of orchestral composition; and traditional music from other parts of the world such as Brazil, India, and west Africa. In his own music Peter seeks to express the influence of these styles in a way that conveys his own unique compositional voice.

Primarily a self-taught musician, Peter started making music when he was a child. Inspired by the many musicians and performers that filled the streets of the small Cape Cod town where he grew up, he began playing guitar at age 12. In his early teens he was drawn towards classical guitar and instrumental music and discovered the solo guitar work of Michael Hedges, Leo Kottke, and Pierre Bensusan; the manouche and flamenco guitar of Django Reinhardt and Paco De Lucia; the bluegrass fusion of David Grisman and Bela Fleck; and the genre-blurring jazz of guitarists like Egberto Gismonti and Ralph Towner. He studied the music of these and other visionaries, including the guitar works of Albeniz, Granados, and Villa-Lobos and the expansive orchestral sounds of composers such as Mahler, Delius, and Glazunov.

Peter also took up other instruments including mandolin, piano, cello, and trumpet. He became increasingly attracted to the improvisational approaches of great jazz musicians like Keith Jarrett and Pat Metheny, and in addition to itinerant formal study at a number of music schools, he attained proficiency in the field of jazz guitar and improvisation.

Peter continued to compose and develop his guitar technique and entered a number of composition and guitar competitions. In 2007 he was a finalist at the Canadian Guitar Competition, and following that appearance he was offered a recording contract with Candyrat Records, an independent label that publishes guitar-based music from around the world. In 2008 Peter released "Music Without Words," his first album of original solo guitar music; and in the years since, he has toured throughout the U.S. and shared the stage with musicians such as Ewan Dobson, Pino Forastiere, Antoine Dufour, Gareth Pearson, and Craig D'Andrea. In addition to a number of new works in progress, Peter released his second solo guitar album "Still Without Words" in spring 2016 and is subsequently performing and touring around the US during 2017 and 2018.

The broad nature of his musical interests also extends into the realm of musical instrument design, research, and construction. Having studied guitarmaking with the highly regarded educator and innovator Charles Fox at the American School of Lutherie, Peter founded Ciluzzi Guitars in 2006, and in 2010 he was invited to exhibit at the prestigious Montreal Guitar Show. In addition to continuing work on various musical projects & recordings and giving performances around the U.S., he presently commissions and builds fine handcrafted instruments out of a workshop in Massachusetts.

"Luthier and player, with sublime beauty and taste...Ciluzzi and his guitar sound like one." -Minor 7th

"A truly gifted guitarist but foremost a first-class composer and musician...who is able to touch a person's soul with so much warmth and impact." -Bridg Guitar