

PHILIP CATHERINE

www.philipcatherine.com

Philip Catherine has been on the forefront of the European jazz scene since the sixties. His work with great artists like Chet Baker, Larry Coryell, Tom Harrell, NHOP, Stéphane Grappelli, Charles Mingus, his unique approach and sound, his dedication to music have been important and influential.

Philip Catherine was born in London in 1942. Being from a musical family (his grandfather was first violin with the London Symphony Orchestra), he developed a musical ear from an early age. He took up the guitar after having discovered Brassens and Django Reinhardt, and started listening to all the great jazzmen of the period. Very soon he had the opportunity to meet some of them, and often accompanied them when they played in Belgium where his family had moved to by then.

At the age of 18 he toured Europe with Lou Bennett and in 1971 Jean-Luc Ponty asked him to join his quintet. In 1971 he made his first record under his name, "Stream", followed in 1974-75 by "September Man" and "Guitars". Jazz amateurs the world over discovered not only a brilliant guitarist, but also a talented composer: themes like "Homecomings" and "Nairam" have become famous.

He has played in the most prestigious concert halls, from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Carnegie Hall, from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam to the Olympia and Salle Pleyel in Paris and the Palais des Beaux-Arts of Brussels, but still loves to play in jazz clubs from time to time, because of the direct communication with the audience.

Philip Catherine has received many awards, among others the "BIRD" Prize (90), together with Stan Getz, at the North Sea Festival, the "Django D'Or" (98) in Paris for 'Best European Jazz Artist', the ZAMU 'Lifetime Achievement Award' (2001) and 'Best Musician' (2002). In 2002 he received the title "Maestro Honoris Causa" from the Antwerp Conservatory (title which has been given previous years to reputed artists like Jos van Immerseel, Sigiswald Kuijken and Toots Thielemans).

In 1997 Philip Catherine signed with Dreyfus Records. His first album on this label - simply called "**Live**" (being the very first live recording of his career) has been highly acclaimed by the international press (4½-star in Down Beat, "best album of the year" in Jazz Nu ; etc..).

It was followed in '98 by "**Guitar Groove**" (with Jim Beard on piano and keyboards, Alphonso Johnson on bass and Rodney Holmes on drums), which features twelve superb compositions by Philip and a beautiful rendering of 'Stardust'. The album got impressive radio airplay in the US and - very exceptional for a European jazz cd - it broke the top 20 of the Gavin Jazz Chart where it stayed for several months.

The Cd "**Blue Prince**" (nov 2000) received very enthusiastic acclaim from the press: "Record of the Year", in 'JazzMan' and was selected among best album of the year in many magazines and newspapers.

"**Summer Night**" (Dreyfus, 2002) - in trio/quartet with Philippe Aerts on bass, Joost van Schaik on drums, and Bert Joris on trumpet - contains six new compositions, a beautiful re-take of 'Janet' and six standards. It shows again that Philip Catherine may be counted among the great jazz artists of our time.

The success of his appearances with some leading European big bands, and more frequently with chamber orchestra's, have revealed that his lyrical compositions are particularly appropriate for arrangements for larger ensembles.

This led to the collaboration with the Brussels Jazz Orchestra (BJO, who were the first European big band to be elected in the 2004 Downbeat Critics Poll), and in April 2005 the album "**Meeting Colours**" (Dreyfus) was released, with superb arrangements of his music for guitar and big band by trumpeter/arranger Bert Joris.

In 2007 Philip Catherine prepared a new *solo guitar program*. The beauty of his compositions really stands out in these arrangements. Philip, surrounded by his guitars and his pedal-rack, fascinates his audience. "**Guitars Two**" (2008, Dreyfus Jazz), the first solo album of his career, was hailed in the international press as one of his best albums.

The album "**Live at Cap Breton**" (Dreyfus, 4/2010) with an all-star line-up: Enrico Pieranunzi (p), Hein Van de Geyn (b), Joe LaBarbera (dr) received great reviews and the quartet played some amazing concerts at summer festivals in 2010.

In 2011 The album "**Philip Catherine plays Cole Porter**" was released on Challenge Records, in quartet with pianist Karel Boehlee, Martijn Vink on drums and Philippe Aerts on double bass. A special tribute to this great composer. In the words of Hein Van de Geyn: "*Philip's unique sound is always recognizable, deeply expressive and so very personal. By surrendering to the tune, by simply trying to give the honest rendition of these timeless songs, Philip proved himself to be a great singer.*" It received among others the CHOC in JazzMan.

Philip Catherine celebrated his 70th birthday in October 2012, with a memorable concert at the Brussels Palais des Beaux-Arts receiving a standing ovation from the full house, and the release of a new CD.

'**Coté Jardin**' (11/2012, Challenge Records) was recorded with his new Quartet: Italian pianist Nicola Andrioli, young fabulous drummer Antoine Pierre, and longstanding companion Philippe Aerts on bass, plus additional keyboards on some tracks by Philippe Decock, and – a première – daughter Isabelle Catherine on vocals in a beautiful version of Philip's composition 'Coté Jardin' with lyrics by Jacques Duvall. The repertoire consists of own compositions, some by Andrioli as well as a great cover of Brassens, and enchants both the jazz fans and the classical music lover. "On 'Misty Cliffs' his guitar sings, murmurs, but also bites and searches ecstasy ... Catherine is lyrical, virtuosic and by times exuberant on this sublime album." (KVK, De Standaard)

In January 2014 the album '**New Folks – Duo Art**' was released on ACT Music, a duo recording with US based German bassplayer Martin Wind. Complicity, mutual respect, fine sense of humor and magnificent playing have seduced the audiences during the release tour in February and October 2014.

During six months Philip Catherine worked on a new project, a selection of his compositions in arrangements with string orchestra. The première of "**Philip Catherine & Strings of the ORCW**" was performed on 13th January 2015 at Flagey in Brussels and resulted to be truly magnificent. Philip & his quintet together with the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie conducted by Frank Braley, gave a sublime and moving concert for a full house, greeted with several standing ovations.

The concert was filmed by national TV VRT-Canvas. The recording resulted to be so good and record label ACT-Music being very enthusiastic about it, that Philip and conductor Frank Braley have agreed that a mix of the two hours concert will be brought out on CD in summer 2015. The repertoire will be performed again in France at 'Printemps de Colmar' festival and in July 2015 for "Mons Cultural Capital of Europe 2015", as well as a select number of dates during the coming seasons.

Philip Catherine continues open-minded and relentlessly his search for renewal and perfection. The formulas with which he chooses to perform give him the rhythmic support and freedom to unfold his wide palette of musical styles, from that irresistible groovy rock sound to the broad lyrical phrases of which he is a master.

The US magazine "Downbeat" wrote: "He is one of the most accomplished and rewarding guitarists now playing jazz".

4/2015

PHILIP CATHERINE – Selected Discography

as a leader :

* STREAM ('70)	Warner 46049
* SEPTEMBER MAN ('75)	Atlantic 40 562
* GUITARS ('75)	Atlantic 50 193
* BABEL (80)	Electra 52 244
* END OF AUGUST ('82)	WeA K 58 450-
* TRANSPARENCE ('86)	Inak 8701CD
* SEPTEMBER SKY ('88)	September 5106CD
* OSCAR ('88)	Igloo 060CD
* I REMEMBER YOU ('90)	Criss Cross
* MOODS, vol.I ('92)	Criss Cross 1060
* MOODS, vol.II	Criss Cross 1061CD
* Philip Catherine "LIVE" (97)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM 36587
* GUITAR GROOVE (98)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM 36599
* BLUE PRINCE (2000)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM36614
* SUMMER NIGHT (2002)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM 36637
* MEETING COLOURS (4/2005)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM 36675
* GUITARS TWO (1/2008)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM 46050
* CONCERT in CAPBRETON (4/2010)	Dreyfus Jazz FDM 369412
* PHILIP CATHERINE plays COLE PORTER (5/2011)	Challenge Records CHR 70166
* COTE JARDIN (11/2012)	Challenge Records CHR70178
* NEW FOLKS - Duo Art (1/2014)	ACT Music

and with :

Chet BAKER :	"Baker/Catherine/ Rassinfosse" "Chet's Choice" "Strollin" "In Bologna, Live"	Igloo 034CD Criss Cross 1016 CD Enja 5005CD Dreyfus 191 133-2
Stéphane GRAPPELLI:	Young Django" "Live 1992" "Grappelli/Ponty/Catherine"	MPS 15510 Birdology 517392-2 America 6139
Larry CORYELL :	"Twin House" "Splendid"	Atlantic 50 342 Electra 52 986
N.H.O. PEDERSEN :	"The Viking" "Art of the Duo"	Pablo 2310 894 Enja8016-2
Dexter GORDON:	"Something Different"	Steeple Chase Scs 1136
Charlie MINGUS :	"Three or Four Shades of Blue"	Atlantic SD 1700
Charlie MARIANO/Jasper Van 't Hof : MARIANO/Van 't Hof /Don ALIAS :	"Sleep my Love" "Operanoia" ('96)	Contemp LC 6055CD Intuition 3158 2
Didier LOCKWOOD/Chr. ESCOUDE :	"Trio"	JMS 031
Carla BLEY/Mike MANTLER :	More Movies"	Watt 10A/1A
Michaël GIBBS	"The Only Chrome Waterfall Orch"	Bronze BR 2012
Barney WILEN/Palle DANIELSSON :	"Sanctuary"	IDA 029CD
Jacques PELZER	"Tribute to the Band Box"	Igloo 106
Emmanuel BEX/Aldo ROMANO :	"Trios"	
SOLEDAD	"Passage – the music of F. Devreese"	EMI/Virgin Classics

and many others