



mel Bay
R E C O R D S

Alex de Grassi

Widely heralded as one of the finest steel-string fingerstyle guitarists in the world, Alex de Grassi has won thousands of fans over the past three decades with his masterful technique, inspired compositions, and distinctive, beautifully orchestrated sound.

Raised in the San Francisco area, Alex drew on his family's rich musical tradition throughout his formative years: his father studied classical piano, his mother loved jazz, and his grandfather was a violinist with the San Francisco Symphony. While the trumpet was Alex's first instrument, he switched to guitar in his early teens, inspired by acoustic performers such as John Renbourn, Leo Kottke and Ralph Towner along with rock, pop and jazz artists of the day.

Primarily a self-taught musician, Alex studied jazz guitar with Bill Thrasher at the University of California - Santa Barbara before transferring to the University of California - Berkeley, where he took music courses while earning a degree in economic geography. Never complacent with his professional achievements, he has continually sought opportunities to expand his musical experience. He studied jazz piano with Mark Levine and composition with William Mathieu and has enlisted a broad spectrum of artists for his collaborative projects, including Luis Conte, Michael Manring, Chris Garcia, and Zakir Hussein.

In 1978 Alex released *Turning: Turning Back*, the first entry in his impressive discography. *The Water Garden* received GRAMMY® and Indie Award nominations and was named Best Acoustic Instrumental Recording for 1998 by *Crossroads Magazine*. *Demania*, his most recent CD, was released on Tropo Records in 2006. *Alex de Grassi in Concert*, his latest DVD and his first project for Mel Bay Records, was released in 2007.

Alex has performed throughout the world, including appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Belfast International Festival, the Bath Guitar Festival, and the Montreux Jazz Festival. In 2006 he was commissioned to compose and perform original works for a pair of exceptionally memorable events: a concerto for steel-string guitar, string quartet, and chamber orchestra performed at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, and a solo guitar score for the New York Guitar Festival's silent film series. In 1999 he was featured in *Alex de Grassi: the Artist's Profile*, a concert and interview feature on PBS.

Visit Alex online at www.degrassi.com