



Mel Bay  
R E C O R D S

## Bruce Saunders

Born in Miami, Bruce Saunders took up the guitar at the age of twelve. He was initially interested in acoustic blues players like Robert Johnson and Blind Willie McTell, although Freddie King and Jimi Hendrix were also among his favorites. A friend in high school recommended *Jim Hall: Live and Monk / Trane*, recordings which changed his musical direction. Bruce studied at the University of North Texas, where he received a master's degree in jazz performance and made many close friends, some of whom live in Brooklyn, New York, where he lived from 1986 to 2006. Bruce played countless gigs and jam sessions and appeared on many recordings during his New York years. In the late 1990s he toured and recorded with a guitar, drum and saxophone trio called Strange Pursuit. After a chance meeting with pianist Michael Cain, a friend from North Texas, Bruce joined Michael and percussionist Glen Velez on *Strange Omen*, Cain's debut recording. This trio performed at a number of New York jazz clubs, most notably Visiones, which has since closed. Michael introduced Bruce to Jack DeJohnette, who appeared on *Forget Everything*, Bruce's debut recording as a leader and the first of his three CD's for Moo Records. He was featured on several other recordings for the label, including *Razing the Standard*, on which he appeared as a member of the New York Guitar Trio with Ben Monder and Steve Cardenas. Bruce has also recorded Peter Erskine, Dave Holland, Kenny Werner, Bill Stewart, Dave Pietro, Michael Cain, Glen Velez, Harvie Swartz, David Berkman, Otmaro Ruiz, Tony Scherr, Mark Murphy, Curtis Fowlkes and many others.

Since 1992, Bruce has served on the faculty of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, one of the world's premiere performing arts institutions. At Berklee he has developed classes such as *Odds and Evens: Learning to Improvise in Odd Meters* and *The Joe Henderson Ensemble and Styles and Analysis: Peter Bernstein and Kurt Rosenwinkel*. Along with his university schedule, Bruce offers private lessons for individuals and ensembles. He has also conducted clinics in Japan, Colombia, Portugal and Spain. Bruce was in residence at the famed Maine Jazz Camp in 2004 and 2005 in the company of Bill McHenry, John Hollenbeck, John Hebert and many other innovative jazz musicians. Bruce recently moved to Austin, Texas, the live-music capitol of the world, where he plans to continue his Berklee affiliation with the assistance of Jet Blue Airlines.

A respected author, Bruce has three titles in the Mel Bay library: *Modern Blues and Jazz Pentatonics*; *Melodic Improvisation for Guitar*; and *The Bruce Saunders Quintet: 8 x 5*, his first CD for Mel Bay Records.

For a complete discography, MP3s, scores of original music and concert listings, please visit:  
[www.brucesaunders.com](http://www.brucesaunders.com)