



Mel Bay
R E C O R D S

Frank Vignola

Whether featured on a Donald Fagen recording, a jam with David Grisman, as Les Paul's right-hand man, or leading his own groups, Frank Vignola has developed a unique sound on everything from gypsy jazz and commercial pop-jazz to hard bop, post-bop, and swing. Far from a jazz snob, the native New Yorker has been influenced by guitarists ranging from Django Reinhardt, Wes Montgomery, Joe Pass, and Charlie Christian to Frank Zappa, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Eddie Van Halen. The Reinhardt and Christian flavors can be apparent in his sets with Mark O'Connor's Hot Swing, while the Zappa influence often comes through in his fusion, pop-jazz, and new adult contemporary projects. Nods to Montgomery or Pass can be heard in his hard-bop or post-bop work.

Born and raised in an Italian-American family in suburban Long Island, New York, Frank started playing guitar at the age of five. He studied at the Cultural Arts Center of Long Island in the 1980s while booking an impressive roster of sideman gigs, recording and touring with the likes of Madonna, Leon Redbone and Ringo Starr. Frank also came into his own as a leader during this period with the Hot Club of France tribute, a project which the *New York Times* hailed as one of the top 10 acts of 1988 and which forged the way for the many Django Hot Club groups to follow. In 1993, at the age of 27, Frank recorded *Appel Direct*, his first project as a leader for Concord Jazz. More Concord projects followed in the 1990s along with his three Telarc releases as co-leader of the group Travelin' Light.

The early 2000's found Frank recording for Acoustic Disc and Hyena Records while making featured appearances on Atlantic, Sony and Warner Brothers with the likes of Donald Fagen, Queen Latifah, Mark O'Connor, and Wynton Marsalis. Frank has also recorded two DVD's for Mel Bay Records: *Frank Vignola's Gypsy Jazz Jam*, featuring fellow guitarist Jimmy Rosenberg, and *Bucky Pizzarelli: Favorite Solos*, on which Frank backed up one of his guitar heroes. *Vignola Plays Gershwin*, Frank's first CD for Mel Bay Records, was released in April 2007.

Frank has written 18 guitar instruction books for Mel Bay Publications and has performed hundreds of clinics and master classes at major universities and colleges throughout the country, including Julliard and Boston University. He is currently touring with his Gypsy Grass band and with The David Grisman Quintet, and he is planning a reunion tour with Mark O'Connor's Hot Swing.

Visit Frank online at www.FrankVignola.com