



Gilad Hekselman

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"The feeling in a small club quickly grows intense when GILAD HEKSELMAN, an Israeli jazz guitarist in his mid-20s, steps up to improvise. Since arriving in New York five years ago, Mr. Hekselman has set himself roughly up in the line of Pat Metheny and Kurt Rosenwinkel, with a warm and clean guitar tone, clear articulation, crazily extended improvisational ideas, speed when he needs it, an advanced understanding of harmony, and the flexibility to go wherever his bands want..."

Ben Ratliff

"Gilad is a great guitarist with a new voice in the world of jazz music, not just jazz guitar. He has fluidity, intensity, and a lyrical quality as an improviser and composer. He plays from the heart, and that is so important." **Lionel Loueke 2010**

Gilad Hekselman has been developing a reputation as one of the most promising guitarists in New York since his arrival in 2004. In only a few years this native Israeli has shared the stage with some of the greatest artists in the New York jazz scene including Chris Potter, Mark Turner, John Scofield, Anat Cohen, Ari Hoenig, Esperanza Spalding, Sam Yahel, Jeff Ballard, Gretchen Parlato, Avishai Cohen, Jeff 'Tain' Watts, Tigran Hamasyan, Aaron Parks and Greg Hutchinson.

He has played all the major jazz clubs in New York including the Blue Note, The Jazz Standard, Dizzy's Club and Smalls. He is constantly touring world-wide and has played most major jazz festivals including Montreux, North Sea, Montreal and San Francisco.

Gilad is the winner of the 2005 *Gibson Montreux International Guitar Competition*. He opened for guitar legend **Paco de Lucia** at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2006, which led to a string of performances at the IAJE Conference and at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in New York.

That same year Gilad released his debut album **SplitLife** (Smalls Records) recorded with bassist Joe Martin and drummer Ari Hoenig. It received rave reviews from the press as did his second album, **Words Unspoken** (LateSet Records), recorded and released in 2008 with Joe Martin, drummer Marcus

Gilmore and tenor saxophonist Joel Frahm.

In 2009, Gilad recorded three tracks for **Walt Disney Records**, one of which was included in the record *Everybody Wants To Be a Cat* (2011). The album features versions to Disney songs played by a top-shelf lineup of musicians including Dave Brubeck, Joshua Redman, Esperanza Spalding, Diane Reeves, Roy Hargrove, Kurt Rosenwinkel, The Bad Plus and many other jazz legends.

In the spring of 2010 Gilad recorded his third album, **Hearts Wide Open**, with Joe Martin on bass, Marcus Gilmore on drums and world-renowned saxophonist Mark Turner, a project that Gilad defines as his "best recorded work so far".

Born in Israel in 1983, Gilad studied classical piano from age six and began studying guitar at the age of 9. From age 12 to 14 he performed regularly with the band of a weekly children's television show. He attended the prestigious Thelma Yellin School of Arts, graduating with excellence from the jazz department at age 18.

Gilad received the America - Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship for studies abroad to attend The New School in New York, where he completed a BFA degree in performing arts in 2008.

www.giladhekselman.com

Albums *SplitLife* (**Small's Records 2006**), *Words Unspoken* (**LateSet 2008**)
Hearts Wide Open (**Chant du Monde-Harmonia Mundi 2011**)

Gilad Hekselman has recorded for:

Yuval Cohen - *Freedom* (**Anzic Records 2007**), Ari Hoenig - *Bert's Playground* (**Dreyfus 2008**)
Anat Cohen - *Notes From The Village* (**Anzic Records 2008**), Stephy Haik (**AMES 2009**)
David Ashkenazy - *Out With It* (**Positone 2009**), Pat Bianchi - *Back Home* (**Doodlin' Records 2010**)
Ari Hoenig - *Lines of Oppression* (**2010**)