

PERRY BEEKMAN

JAZZ VOCALIST & GUITARIST

"To me, Jazz is not about chords, scales or technique. It's about a feeling – a feeling that connects me to a deeply satisfying sense of my own humanity."

There is a point in every fine jazz artist's life where the realization is made that jazz is a path to self-discovery and transcendence. For the guitarist/vocalist Perry Beekman, that epiphany took place four years into his guitar studies at the age of 15 when he heard the recordings of the immortal jazz guitarist Charlie Christian. Another profound breakthrough occurred for the young Brooklyn-born guitarist when Perry heard the classic recordings of Billie Holiday accompanied by the tenor saxophone titan Lester Young.

Among his teachers were guitar legends Sal Salvador and Remo Palmier. He also pursued a highly intensive course of study with the visionary pianist/composer Lenny Tristano. Perry studied classical guitar with the Segovia-taught virtuoso Virginia Luque, and honed his vocal technique with the acclaimed Jeanette LoVetri.

After graduating from Bard College, Beekman cut his public performance teeth at a variety of private and corporate functions. His career hit its stride in the late 1980s at a variety of upscale clubs and concert halls, as well as festivals like River to River and George Wein's JVC Jazz Festival. Recently, Perry was featured at a performance of the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, singing and playing classics from the Great American Songbook.

In 2003, Perry formed a contemporary version of the Nat King Cole trio, with vocals, guitar, piano and bass. He also performs with bass and drums, sometimes adding a multi-reedman for a quartet, as well as performing in duo format with bass. The musical repertoire focuses upon the Great American Songbook. His debut CD, *So In Love – Perry Beekman Sings and Plays Cole Porter*, was released in May of 2013.

With over 30 years of serious commitment to the art form, and with the inspiration of his personal teachers and his profound influences – vocalists Billie Holiday, Nat 'King' Cole, Frank Sinatra, Chet Baker, Johnny Hartman, Mel Torme; and guitarists Charlie Christian, Barney Kessel, Johnny Smith, George Van Eps, Grant Green, Jimmy Raney, Kenny Burrell and Hank Garland – Perry Beekman is reveling in doing what he loves best.

For more detailed information, please visit www.perrybeekman.com

"I have an unbridled passion for singing and playing the timeless classics of Jazz. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than sharing that passion with others."