

Avi Rothbard:

Guitarist, Composer



Avi Rothbard is an Israeli born jazz guitarist from New York. Originally from Kibbutz Gan Shmuel, Rothbard's first professional gig was at the age of seventeen. After drafting from the IDF, Rothbard moved to Jerusalem to attend the Rubin Academy of music near the Hebrew University. He started to perform and record as a guitarist and a electric bassist with some local names such as Boris Gomer, Avishai Cohen, Amikam Kimelman, Jean Claude Jones, Jess Koren, Arnie Lawrence and Avi Adrian.

After spending a year in NYC between 1991 to 1992, Rothbard returned to Israel to except several teaching positions. In 1995, Avi Rothbard relocated in Boston Mass after earning a scholarship to Berklee College of Music. Berklee was a great place to challenge his musical skills; until his graduation in 1999, his performing experience included working with various outstanding musicians such as Jeremy Pelt, Andy McGhee, Bob Moses, and Phil Wilson. During his years at Berklee, Mr. Rothbard won The Jimmy Hendrix Award, Boston Jazz Society Award, Guitar Dpt. Achievement Award and The William Leavitt Award. Mr. Rothbard has been teaching at the Annual Berklee Guitar Sessions between the years 2000 and 2009 and he is a dedicated teacher/educator, who is responsible for the success of many aspiring guitarists around the world. Other master classes include appearances at City College of New York (while earning his MA from CUNY)) as well as clinics in JCC and Indiana University, to name a few.



Since 1999, After moving for the second time to NYC, Avi Rothbard has played in clubs such as Saint Nicks, Dizzy's Coca Cola club, Rose Hall, Lenox Lounge, Blue Note, Bitter End. CBGB, Showman's, Fat Cat, Smalls, Sweet Rhythm, Minton's Playhouse and Smoke. Mr. Rothbard have worked with jazz greats such as Ben Riley, Richie Cole, Jeremy Pelt, Richie Vitaley, Ali Jackson, Ted Rosenthal, Carolyn Leonhart, Wayne Escoffery, Jay Leonhart, Warren Vach'e, Mike Clark, Ari Roland, Ray Drummond, Herb Pomroy, Chihiro Yamanaka and Uri Caine. Notable jazz festivals include JVC Jazz Festival. Red sea Jazz Festival (Israel), Harlem Festival, Jazz at Aspen Snow-mass, Juan Le Penn, Cape May Jazz Festival, Hartford Jazz Festival and many more. As a side man, Mr. Rothbard is a very sought after guitarist. His guitar style displays an outstanding technique, a broad knowledge of jazz, funk, Latin and R&B repertoire, as well as an impeccable time feel to be the ideal band member for every group session. Currently, Mr. Rothbard performs as an unaccompanied solo jazz guitarist, as well as leading is own jazz trio. Mr. Rothbard also co-leads the Uptown Quartet

Avi Rothbard press quotes:

"Rothbard has a patient way with a phrase, a confident time feel and solid, tasteful chops."

David Adler, *Jazz Time*

Twin Song on Midlantic records from guitarist Avi Rothbard presents solid hard-bop/soul-jazz in standard organ-trio configuration. With updated harmonies this still echoes back to a time the country was dotted with clubs that had Hammond organs (when guitarists like George Benson, Kenny Burrell and Grant Green toured with Jimmy Smith, Jack McDuff and Dr. Lonnie Smith). Rothbard's Twin Song swings with 9 mostly upbeat, original compositions. Twin Song features the musicianship of Avi Rothbard on guitar, Jared Gold on Hammond B3 Organ, and Joe Strasser on drums. Wayne Escoffery makes a guest appearance on Tenor Sax.



Rothbard has developed a style firmly rooted within the American jazz guitar mainstream. One can hear the influences of Wes Montgomery filtered through Joe Pass, Grant Green and George Benson in his playing.

Twin Song is clearly a showcase for Rothbard's considerable talent (both as a guitarist and composer), but this group is a performs as a cohesive unit and each musician is given opportunities to shine on this album. Organist Jared Gold has the chops and evokes the late great Larry Young with his great post-bop harmonies and voicings. Joe Srtasser swinging as ever and Wayne Escoffery provides some stunning solos on Tenor.



www.Jazzpolice.com

Rothbard, a '98 Berklee graduate, asserts his bona fide credentials with this recording, which works within the classic guitar/organ/drums genre, but also goes beyond.

With a little help from organist Jared Gold and drummer Joe Strasser, the guitarist opens with an up-tempo burner that is very much in the mode of a funky sermonette from the soul-jazz pulpit. Part of the young Israeli's education in America occurred not just in rarified classrooms, but also in steamy Harlem nightspots where the music absolutely has to cook.

Aside from soulful signifying, Rothbard has a number of tricks up his sleeve, including a 5/4 ballad, a 6/8 swinger and a flag-waving modal piece sparked with crackling unison guitar/organ passages.

OWEN MCNALLY *Hartford Courant*

Guitarist Avi Rothbard takes a refreshing and earthy approach on this trio and quartet recording. The leader, who was born on the Israeli kibbutz Gan Shmuel and trained at Boston's Berklee College of Music, is deep into updating a chitlin-circuit sound here.

The quartet works up a froth on nine Rothbard originals that span both the sweet and rocking sides of soul jazz. The session projects some arthouse overtones, but the effect is pleasantly primal at times, as on the opening stomper, "Preach's Inches."

Rothbard is more complementary than flamboyant as a soloist. He plays to make the band better, not preside over it. Organist Jared Gold and drummer Joe Strasser find heft in the leader's tunes, which are reasonable most of the time, if not particularly memorable. Tenor saxophonist Wayne Escoffery makes some airy cameos.

One yearns at times for some clarifying soul, but at least Rothbard's aim is to entertain as much as mystify.



Philadelphia Inquirer

Avi Rothbard's second release as a leader on the MidLantic label demonstrates his unique talent as a soulful guitar player of the highest caliber and a gifted composer. Rothbard was born and raised in a Kibbutz in Israel, and came to the US to study at the Berklee College of Music in 1995. Since moving to New York in 1999, Rothbard has established himself as a first-tier player on the New-York music scene and has performed with the likes of Mike Ledonne, Wayne Escoffery, Bob Moses, Ted Rosenthal, Grant Stewart, Joe Magnarelli and others.

Rothbard's chosen format for this new album (and his previous album) is the organ trio. The classic "soul-jazz" style of Guitar-Organ-Drums was made famous by Wes Montgomery, Grant Green, Kenny Burrell, Pat Martino and George Benson in the 60's. Rothbard is deeply rooted in that tradition and has spent many years absorbing the bebop and soul-jazz vocabulary, but he does not stop at that. His influences also include modern players like Woody Shaw and Joe Henderson.

"Any lover of Guitar-Organ trios will find this album very satisfying. Rothbard preserves the traditional stylistic elements that make this format work so well, and adds his own contemporary ideas on top of catchy memorable compositions to create a unique blend.

Jazz Improv Magazine

... with a liquid, bluesy overlay that makes him an effective leader of what's usually called the organ trio (guitar-organ-drums).

"Preach's Inches" has an upbeat gospel orientation, and it's typical of Rothbard's rapport with organist Jared Gold and drummer Joe Strasser in a tightly wound threesome. "Five Corners" is the most innovative composition, as guest saxophonist Wayne Escoffery contributes both judiciously and meatily to the trio texture.

"Cheerleader" sounds like an R&B ballad waiting for a lyric, and Gold's soupy accompaniment doesn't help. But the guitar melody is fetching, and a good theme likewise carries a much different piece, "Triad," with its vigorous organ and guitar soloing. Rothbard's facility and imagination are most concentrated in "Minor Impact," which also offers the best evidence of Gold's commanding bass line on the pedal board.

Indianapolis Star

Avi Rothbard, originally from Israel, has been making his way through the New York jazz scene for the past few years and this is his second release with Midlantic Records. His compositions are both stylistically and technically superb and his guitar playing is equally brilliant. Building from, but not limiting himself to, classic style and form, he is able to take his music in many new directions. This collection showcases the multi-dimensionality of Rothbard's acumen as a composer and jazz musician. The arrangements are tight and precise, but overflowing in exuberance and creative exploration.

"Preach's Inches," is soulful and funky. Rothbard on guitar practically flies around the room and Jared Gold is fierce on organ; and the next track, "Minor Impact," actually has more energy than that. It is fast and intense and Joe Strasser's drums take hot and nervous breaths throughout leading to a couple of quaking solos before it goes out with a quick jab. The mood is lightened up a bit, with "Cheerleader," a wonderful composition, which glides in softly, but with light animation. Rothbard's guitar-playing here lingers, beckoning the listener deeper and leads to a funky change up where organ and guitar really shine. The last track on this CD, "Just a Little Sip," is also of special note as it features some sizzling saxophone by Escoffery. Excellent!

JazzReview.com

"Of the many organ trio releases that have popped out over the past few years, Twin Song deserves a place in the front rank it's that good".

Cadence

"Rothbard's compositions are fully realized and clever, while at the same time retaining their emotional center. It is a joy to hear the interplay between the musicians. Twin Song is an excellent CD"

All About Jazz New York

"A forward looking guitarist with hip organ grooves"

Jazziz magazine

"He and his colleagues consistently provide an enjoyable body of music, Rothbard begins to truly show him self as more than an assemblage of influences. Rothbard spins of single notes with speed and alacrity."

Cadence magazine

Avi Rothbard is available for live concerts with "The Avi Rothbard Trio", The Uptown Quartet (Co leader with Wayne Escoffery) and solo jazz guitar.

Contact:

E-mail:

Tristatejazz@aol.com

Web site:

<http://www.rothbardmusic.com>

