

DARIO CHIAZZOLINO



Hi Dario thanks for taking some time to speak with us today we are big fans of you and your band here at The Sound Guitar Magazine.

Can you tell our readers what got you into playing guitar and was there one moment you remember in your younger days that you knew you would play music?

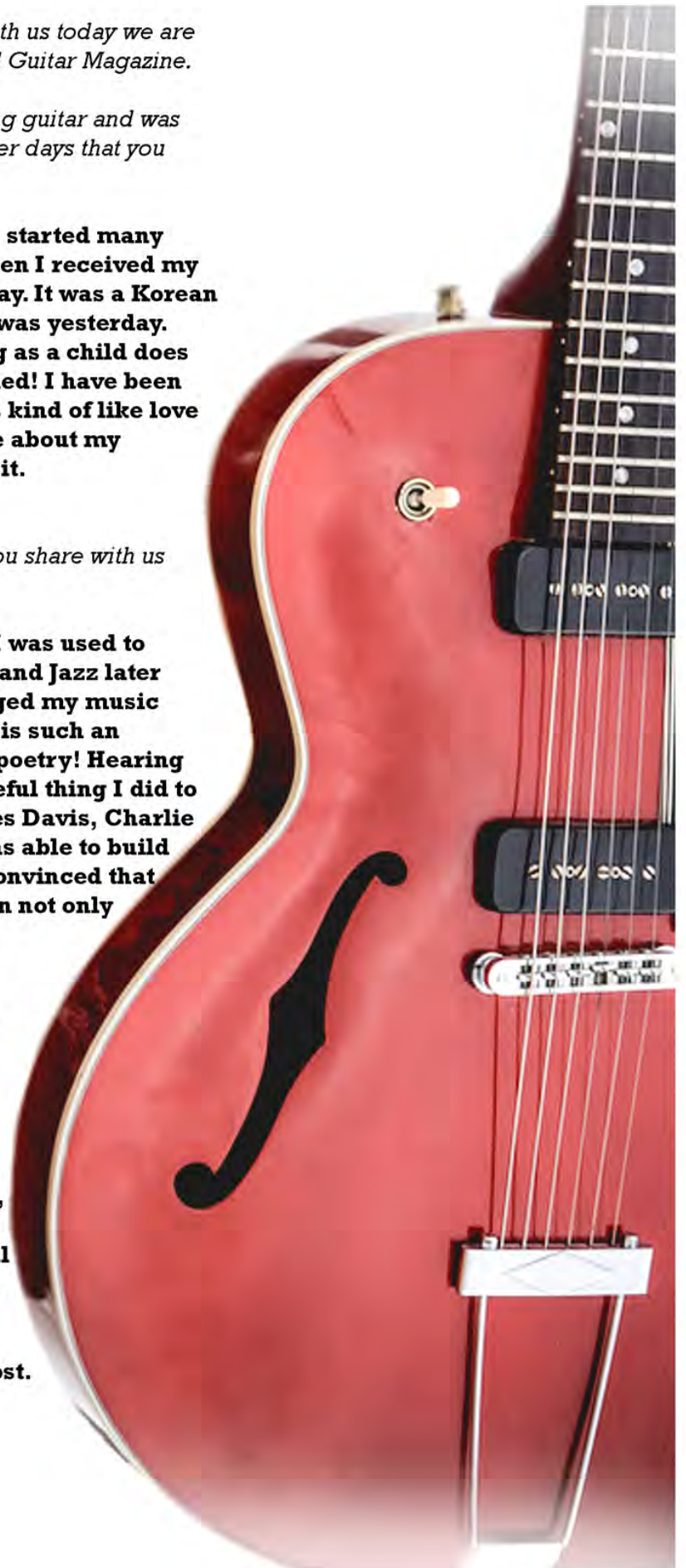
Thank you dear Jason. Well, my music trip started many years ago. It was back in December 1996 when I received my first guitar from my parents on Christmas day. It was a Korean Asahi classical guitar. I remember it like it was yesterday. Once I picked my guitar up I started playing as a child does with his favorite game. I was totally bewitched! I have been playing the guitar since that moment. It was kind of like love at first sight. My family was very supportive about my playing since the first years. I was lucky for it.

What led you to your strong Jazz roots and can you share with us about your first year when you got into Jazz?

My first musical influences are different. I was used to playing rock, hard rock, progressive, blues and Jazz later came to me. Charlie Parker definitely changed my music approach. I was so excited by his playing; it is such an amazing combination of energy, talent and poetry! Hearing the greatest bebop players was the most useful thing I did to grow up as a jazz musician. Because of Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Bud Powell I was able to build my basis of the Jazz language. I am pretty convinced that listening is the real key to improving. I mean not only for a Jazz player but for all genres of music.

Can you share with us your musical influences?

I grew up listening to mostly electric guitarists. I consider Jimmy Hendrix the father of the electric guitar. Most of the greatest rock guitarists are influenced by him. I also love bands such as Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Frank Zappa, The Beatles and Queens. On the other hand I adore Classical music, my two favorite Classical musicians are Chopin and Bach. I love all of their compositions. Concerning the Jazz scene I must say that pianists influenced me the most. Bill Evans is one of my biggest influences.



"Paint Your Life" is your new record lets talk about that, who were the players you had play with you?

I was fortunate to be accompanied by a beautiful band. Marco Panascia on the bass, Taylor Eigsti on the piano and Willie Jones III on the drums form the band. They are pretty well known in the New York City Jazz scene. They're very skilled and sensitive. I really enjoyed making the album with them, they are very smart musicians, they know how to support my music without talking about it. Everything was easy and fluent. I couldn't of found a better team.

Let's talk about the songs from the new record, my personal favorite song is "Nostalgia", can you tell us a little bit about the structure and the story behind this song?

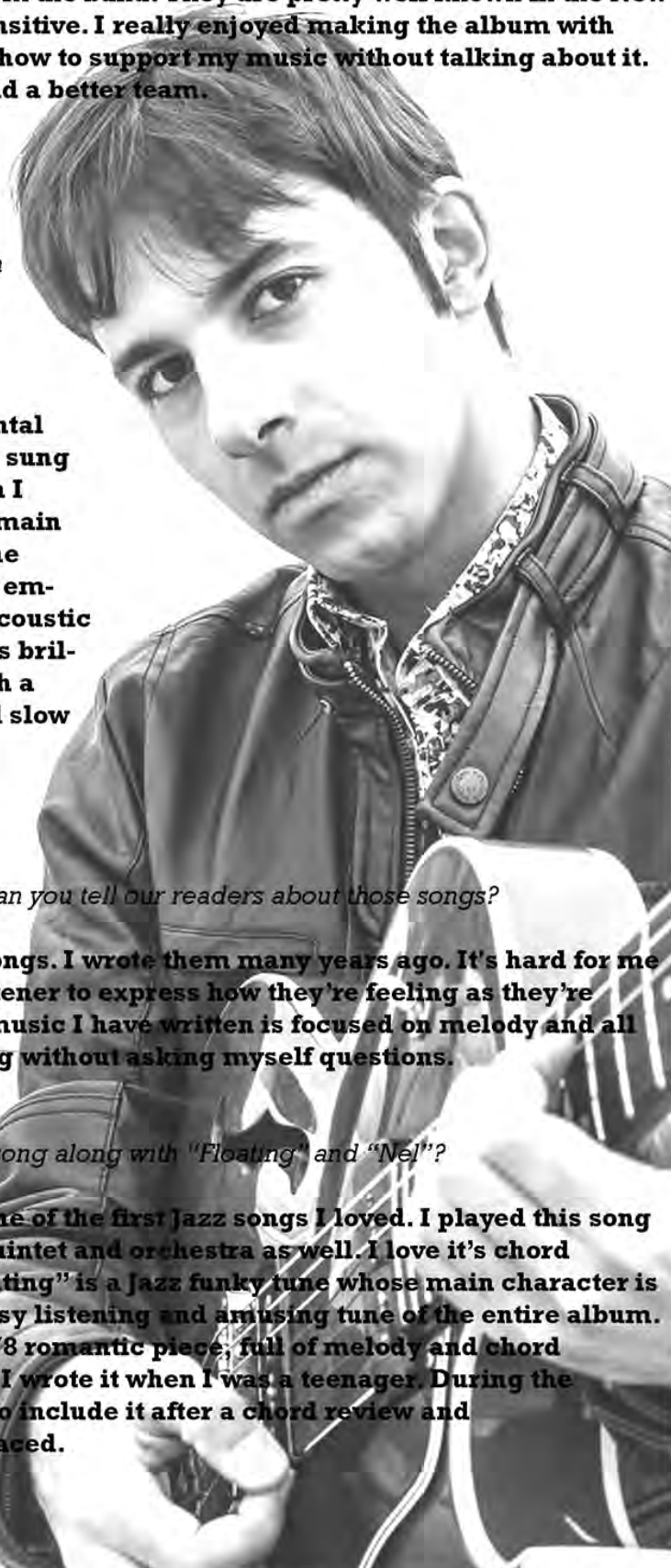
"Nostalgia", as the name suggests, is a sentimental and melancholy song. I think this piece could be sung because the melody is so clear and lyrical. When I composed "Nostalgia" I started focusing on the main melody, it was an instinctive idea. Once I built the whole line, I chose the right chords which better emphasized the theme. Then I decided to play the acoustic guitar. I needed a more intimate sound and a less brilliant timbre. We initiated recording this tune with a guitar - piano intro; a few notes, huge spaces and slow breaths. That's what the song needed to start.

"Precious Things" and "Awake" are the first 2 tracks, can you tell our readers about those songs?

I consider these two songs probably the main songs. I wrote them many years ago. It's hard for me to tell about the songs I write. I would like the listener to express how they're feeling as they're hearing my music. What I can say is that all the music I have written is focused on melody and all its combinations. I am used to writing and playing without asking myself questions.

"There is No Greater Love", can you tell us about this song along with "Floating" and "Nel"?

"There is No Greater Love" by Isham Jones is one of the first jazz songs I loved. I played this song in many different music projects: trio, quartet, quintet and orchestra as well. I love it's chord changes and I find the melody pretty funny. "Floating" is a Jazz funky tune whose main character is the strong rhythm part. It is probably the most easy listening and amusing tune of the entire album. I had fun recording it with my band. "Nel" is a 6/8 romantic piece, full of melody and chord changes. "Nel" is one of my oldest compositions. I wrote it when I was a teenager. During the recording session of "Paint Your Life" I decided to include it after a chord review and rearrangement. The melody instead was not replaced.





Let's talk about the title track "Paint Your Life", what inspired you to choose that title and does it have a special meaning to you?

"Paint Your Life" is a sort of prayer for me. This tune is dedicated to my dad who passed away during the album release. The meaning of this song is very deep. It is a big thanks to a special person who taught me how to paint my life. I wrote this song during the mastering of the album and I decided to include it after my dad left. As a tribute to my father I named the album – "Paint Your Life".

Do you have some favorite Jazz standards you like to play live?

I love many of the well known Jazz standards. In particular I really enjoy playing "Con Alma" by Dizzy Gillespie. I adore all Joe Henderson repertoire and of course the John Coltrane one.

You have the absolute pitch: how do you think it has been useful for your playing?

Having the absolute pitch is undoubtedly a precious gift for which I feel very grateful. It's been useful for me mostly when I have to study a new repertoire of songs or maybe when I transcribe something. However I think that there are many other things that are more important. I believe that musicality is the main skill for a musician. When I say musicality I mean having a strong confidence with music, how you play every single note and how you pronounce it and how your intention is.

Let's talk about your gear, what do you use live and what do you record with?

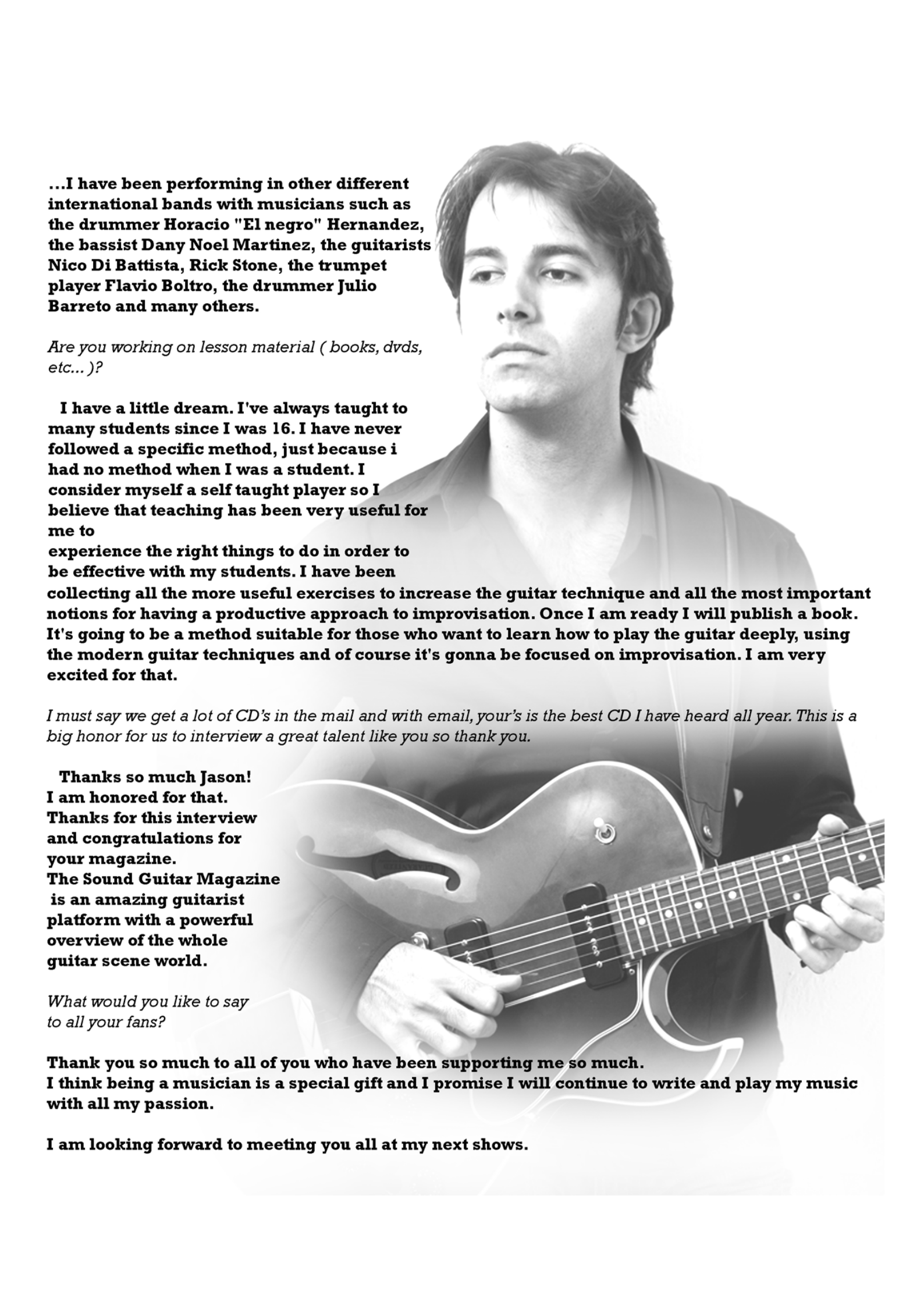
I am sponsored by Gibson Italy Guitar, DR Strings and Randall Amplifier. I am used to performing with the same gear both live and during a studio session. I have been playing the Gibson ES 135 for many years that's why I am really fond of it. My strings are DR PHR 12 Pure Blues (0.12 / 0.52) and my amplifiers are the Randall RG 50 and RG 100 depending on the size of the venue. I don't use any effect.

Do you have any advice for players who are wanting to play or study Jazz?

For sure. The best way to achieve good results is definitely the listening that's the most important thing to do. It needs to be surrounded by Jazz music, from all corners. Studying scales, arpeggios, chord changes and technique is of course very important, but it is not enough. You must listen to Jazz music as much as possible. It's like studying and speaking a new language. All the grammar rules are primary but in order to be a good speaker you must listen to the native speakers to have conversations with them. The same is not only for Jazz but for all music. Obviously you have to practice the guitar every single day, and for many hours.

What other projects are you working on?

I can start talking about my smallest arrangement; a solo guitar project where I play classical, acoustic and electric guitar with no loop station and any kind of effect. I have been working in a beautiful project with great saxophonist Bob Mintzer, pianist Russel Ferrante and bassist Jimmy Haslip with whom I found a group named "Principles Sound" after taking part in their "Yellow Jackets" tour. I set up a new amazing European quartet with French bassist Dominique Di Piazza, Italian pianist Antonio Faraò and French drummer Manhu Roche where we play many of my newest compositions. This is a little bit more electric quartet than the "Paint Your Life" album. I am working also on a project with British saxophonist Andy Sheppard. We had a beautiful European tour last summer together.



...I have been performing in other different international bands with musicians such as the drummer Horacio "El negro" Hernandez, the bassist Dany Noel Martinez, the guitarists Nico Di Battista, Rick Stone, the trumpet player Flavio Boltro, the drummer Julio Barreto and many others.

Are you working on lesson material (books, dvds, etc...)?

I have a little dream. I've always taught to many students since I was 16. I have never followed a specific method, just because i had no method when I was a student. I consider myself a self taught player so I believe that teaching has been very useful for me to experience the right things to do in order to be effective with my students. I have been collecting all the more useful exercises to increase the guitar technique and all the most important notions for having a productive approach to improvisation. Once I am ready I will publish a book. It's going to be a method suitable for those who want to learn how to play the guitar deeply, using the modern guitar techniques and of course it's gonna be focused on improvisation. I am very excited for that.

I must say we get a lot of CD's in the mail and with email, your's is the best CD I have heard all year. This is a big honor for us to interview a great talent like you so thank you.

**Thanks so much Jason!
I am honored for that.
Thanks for this interview
and congratulations for
your magazine.
The Sound Guitar Magazine
is an amazing guitarist
platform with a powerful
overview of the whole
guitar scene world.**

*What would you like to say
to all your fans?*

**Thank you so much to all of you who have been supporting me so much.
I think being a musician is a special gift and I promise I will continue to write and play my music
with all my passion.**

I am looking forward to meeting you all at my next shows.



DARIO CHIAZZOLINO

"From the beginning of his life to his current success as a creative musician, Dario Chiazzolino has charted his own course. The young guitarist/composer is one of the biggest breakout musicians of the new generation - not just in jazz, but in all genres of music."

Jazz Channel

"Dario Chiazzolino is the most amazing talent I've never heard."

Herman Breinfeld - journalist

"Dario Chiazzolino is a dynamic and colorful guitarist and composer.

He paints a compelling picture with his music."

Bob Mintzer - saxophonist, composer, arranger, producer

"Dario Chiazzolino is in the line of the greatest jazz guitarists and composers.

A truly great musician with Big ears and Big heart."

Andy Sheppard - saxophonist, composer, arranger

"The first time I heard Dario Chiazzolino the things that hit me the most were the warm jazz guitar sound he has and the maturity and elegance of his phrasing.

Dario is a solid player who can really swing.

As a composer he writes beautiful melodic tunes that are subtle and refined.

It is a real pleasure for me to perform with him on stage."

Dominique Di Piazza - bassist, composer

"Dario Chiazzolino is an exciting, new, and innovative voice in jazz."

Russel Ferrante - pianist, composer, arranger, producer

"Dario Chiazzolino is simply a prodigy. He is a genius of the guitar."

Carlos Domingo - journalist

"Paint you Life is A brilliant recording by a wonderful and outstanding guitarist Dario Chiazzolino! Great writing and beautiful performances!"

Jimmy Haslip - bassist, composer, arranger, producer

"Dario Chiazzolino's music is really an explosive affair.

His guitar voice is unique, dynamic and powerful."

Matt Louder - journalist

Dario Chiazzolino (b. 1985) is a multi-award winning Italian guitarist and composer. One of Italy's most in-demand jazz musicians yet still in his twenties, he performs regularly and records with many top European and American jazz musicians.

The recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, Dario has been playing guitar professionally since age 14. He was the first-prize winner of The Umbria Jazz Festival at age 21, and has since garnered first prizes at the Top Jazz Guitar Competition in 2012.

Dario has performed in many of the most important jazz festivals in the world.

His "Principles Sound" project consists of Yellow Jackets members Bob Mintzer, Russel Ferrante and Jimmie Haslip. In 2012 they released the CD "Lost in the Jungle", and following the recording, Dario was invited to take part in the Yellow Jackets 2012 Tour.

In 2010 an original Latin Jazz project was formed, featuring Dario Chiazzolino, guitar, Dany Noel Martinez, bass, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, drums, Ivan Bridon and Ivan Melon Lewis, piano, Carlos Sanduy, trumpet, and singer Concha Buika. They released the album "Proposition" (and other main latin icons as Ramón Porrina, Jerry Gonzáles, Inoidel González, Javier Masso "Caramelo", Fernando Favier, Diego Guerrero, Ivette Falcón Urgate, Daniel Martínez Miranda) .

Dario has also performed and or recorded with Billy Cobham, Bob Mintzer, Dave Liebman, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, Andy Sheppard, Aaron Goldberg, Russel Ferrante, William Kennedy, Rick Stone, Felix Pastorius, Julio Barreto, Dominique Di Piazza, Taylor Eigsti, Antonio Faraò, Willie Jones III, Jimmy Haslip.

Born and raised in Turin Italy, Dario holds a bachelor degree from Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Turin, and a masters degree from Università della Musica, Rome