

## Dave Stryker Biography

Whether you've heard guitarist Dave Stryker leading his own group (with 35 CD's as a leader to date), or as a featured sideman with Stanley Turrentine, Jack McDuff, and many others, you know why the Village Voice calls him "one of the most distinctive guitarists to come along in recent years."

Hot House magazine awarded him Best Guitarist Fans Decision for 2017. He was recently voted once again as one of the top Jazz Guitarists in the 2022 Downbeat Critics and Readers Polls for the 15th time.

Dave's last 5 CD's have all gone to #1 on the JazzWeek Radio chart. His most recent recording is *Prime* featuring his trio of Jared Gold on organ and McClenty Hunter on drums fresh off a tour opening up for Steely Dan. As *We Are* featured John Patitucci, Brian Blade, Julian Shore and a string quartet led by violinist Sara Caswell. Critics called it one of Dave's greatest works yet. *Blue Soul* recorded with Bob Mintzer and the WDR Big Band in Cologne Germany hit #1 for 3 weeks. *Eight Track III* stayed at #1 on JazzWeek Radio chart for 6 straight weeks. *Messin' with Mister T*, is a celebration of the man he worked with for over a decade — Stanley Turrentine, "Mister T" — with ten of the greatest tenor sax players on the scene today. It went to #1 on JazzWeek Radio and stayed in the Top 50 for 20 weeks and received great reviews including 4 1/2 stars in Downbeat magazine.

Dave Stryker grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to New York City in 1980. After establishing himself in the local music scene, he joined organist Jack McDuff's group for two years 1984-85. When McDuff wasn't on the road (literally traveling by van all over the country) they worked a steady four-night a week gig at Dude's Lounge in Harlem. His first break, this turned out to be an invaluable experience, paying his dues night after night with the soulful jazz organist. It was at Dude's Lounge that Stryker met tenor saxophonist Stanley Turrentine, who would occasionally sit in. After leaving McDuff, Turrentine asked Stryker to join his quintet. From 1986-1995 he played with the legendary saxophonist at all the major festivals, concert halls, and clubs throughout the world. He is featured on two Turrentine CD's (Stanley recorded Stryker's tune "Sidesteppin"). With Turrentine, Stryker was able to play with such jazz greats as Dizzy Gillespie and Freddie Hubbard. The ten years playing alongside the tenor legend helped Stryker realize the importance of having his own sound. Dave continued to work with Stanley and was with him during his final week at the Blue Note in NYC, when he passed in Sept. 2000.

Early on Stryker realized that as much as he loved playing standards and the jazz repertoire he had to have something of his own to give to the music. He feels that his writing combined with his playing is what shapes his musical expression. He has recorded and published over 150 of his own compositions and has released *The Dave Stryker Songbook* with most of his original music. Also 18 of the compositions (from the first five SteepleChase CD's) are compiled in the book: *The Music of Dave Stryker* (SteepleChase Music) which can be ordered on this website.

Some of the other artists who have recorded Dave's music are: Stanley Turrentine, Kevin Mahogany, Victor Lewis, and Steve Slagle. Dave continues to perform with The Dave Stryker Organ Trio, Dave Stryker Eight Track Band, and his Blue to the Bone Band. Dave Stryker's Trio recently opened for Steely Dan's 2022 Summer tour "Earth After Hours".

Recent gigs have included Birdland, the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Monterey Jazz Festival, The Newport Jazz Festival, The Keystone Korner in Baltimore MD, The Jazz Bakery in LA, and tours of Europe, Canada and Japan.

Dave co-led The Stryker/Slagle Band for 30 years with saxophonist Steve Slagle. He has appeared on over 75 CD's as a sideman. Past sideman work has included vocalist Kevin Mahogany's group, with Dave writing and arranging music for Kevin's Telarc release *Pride and Joy and Another Time, Another Place* on Warner Bros and tours of Europe, Japan, Brazil, Poland and Carnegie Hall. As a producer, Stryker compiled the CD *The Guitar Artistry of Billy Rogers* which is the only existing record of the brilliant jazz playing of the late underground legend who was his friend, former teacher and member of the Crusaders. He has also produced *A Tribute to Grant Green* on Evidence Music and has produced many other artists. .

Dave is Adjunct Professor of Jazz Guitar at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University. Dave's online teaching school is at [www.artistworks.com](http://www.artistworks.com). His book *Dave Stryker's Jazz Guitar Improvisation Method Vol III* is available on his website at [www.davestryker.com](http://www.davestryker.com).

"I have followed Dave Stryker's playing since his early days in Omaha through his long stay with Stanley Turrentine ...and he just gets better and better with one of the most joyous feels around." –Pat Metheny