

FRANCESCO GUAIANA BIOGRAPHY

Francesco was born in Palermo, Sicily, in 1973. He became interested in music at a very young age, playing piano and guitar. After high school he studied several things such as harmony, ear training, arranging, he also took classical guitar lessons and earned the Diploma of theory and solfège at the conservatory "V. Bellini" in Palermo. Between 1992 and 1995 he attended the university of philosophy in Palermo where he focused in Ethnomusicology and History of Music and started playing as a sideman and leader in several small and big bands, along with guest artists such as Paolo Fresu, Salvatore Bonafede. In 1995 he participated at the Concert for 100 guitars, a composition written by the American composer Rhys Chatham and performed in Palermo at Teatro Verdura. He attended many workshops such as San Vito Jazz 93-96, Umbria Jazz 1996, Siena Jazz 1997. In 1997 he was student of Gunther Shuller's School for Jazz Big Band instrumentalists in Palermo. In 1998 he won a scholarship to attend the Berklee College of Music and moved to Boston to study performance and composition. He has studied with Kurt Rosenwinkel, Mick Goodrick, Jon Damian, Bret Wilmott, Vuk Kulevski, John Bovicchi, Bruce Bartlett, Ted Peace and had the chance to perform with great artists such as Gary Burton, Paul Jeffrey, Bob Moses, Dave Samuels, Karl Berger. While in Boston he has performed in several Jazz clubs and was invited to play at "North Carolina Jazz Festival", Raleigh Durham, "Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts", Cambridge, "Tufts University", "Berklee Performance Center", "Mass Art University" in Boston. In 2001 he moved to New York where he has played with many interesting musicians and artists and was also hired as staff member at Berklee College, working for Bob Stoloff, Kevin Mahogany, Donna Mc Elroy, Bill Pearce. From 2002 to 2004 he was also member of sicilian folk music band "Tammorra" playing in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy. After a couple of years spent between NY and Europe, he recently moved back to Italy where he is currently teaching and promoting his projects. In 2006 he performed at Werkstatt der Kulturen in Berlin, won the first prize for the best live soundtrack composition at "Strade del Cinema festival" in Aosta, Italy, performed at "Kals Art Movie Festival" in Palermo. He has written music for contemporary dance performances and has been invited to few artist in residence programs such as CESTA (Czech Republic), I AM YOU ARE (Italy) and had a chance to collaborate with audio and visual artists like Andrea Parkins, Julia Naskova, Matt Ostrowsky. He has toured New York and Boston in 2007 with his solo guitar performance promoting his new solo CD titled 'Clouds in Motion'. From October to December of 2007 Francesco has been resident in Paris as a winner of Recollets International Residency Program, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by Direction des Affaires Culturelles, Mairie de Paris. He has been invited among others to 'Hamburg JazzTage' in Hamburg, Germany, 'Upload Festival' in Bolzano, Italy, 'Sapobla Jazz Festival' in Palma de Mallorca, 2008, 2009 and 2010 edition, and to Van der peek artist in residence program in Amsterdam in March 2009, where he performed at prestigious YSBREKER. In the past two years he has performed in several venues in New York City such as: Shapeshifter Lab, Somethin Jazz Club, Nublu, and has been invited to Music Omi, International Artist In residence program in Hudson, NY where he has performed with the Omi Improvisers Orchestra directed by Karl Berger. He has recorded his own compositions and has released more than 15 CDs. He is constantly performing and teaching all over Europe and is currently teaching jazz guitar and at the Music Conservatory of Palermo.