

PRESENTATION

« Fed Guy »

Nick Rossi

Saturday, April 29 – 15:45 am - Médiathèque Musicale de Paris

Abstract

Nick Rossi's presentation will focus on Frederick Lee Guy (1897-1971), member of the Ellington rhythm section for 25 years. Serving initially as a banjoist and subsequently as a rhythm guitarist, Guy with Sonny Greer was a constant throughout a significant portion of the maestro's most fruitful and celebrated periods. Born Virginia, Guy moved to New York and Harlem at a young age where he eventually met and joined the Ellington band. This biographical sketch will survey the plectrist's life and offer some insight to his relationships both in and independent of the Famous Orchestra. Additional context will be provided about the role of the banjo and guitar in contemporaneous jazz orchestras, as well as Guy's place in the history of those instruments. Finally, some consideration will be given to Ellington's use of Guy, the only full-time banjoist/guitarist in the band during this period, in both recording and live settings.

Nick Rossi



Nick Rossi (born 1971) is a guitarist, bandleader, writer, and historian from San Francisco, California, USA. As a musician, he leads several popular local ensembles, has performed throughout California as well as Europe, Rossi is known for his stylish approach jazz music which reflects a deep influence of and appreciation for the music of the 1920s-1960s, particularly the Swing Era. As an educator, he focuses on methods and techniques from the same time period, contextualizing them for newer generations of contemporary musicians. Rossi has written at length about jazz guitar and traditional approaches for publications such as "Acoustic Guitar" magazine and "The Fretboard Journal" and worked with record labels such as Ace, Fresh Sounds, RPM, and Resonance Records, including the latter's Grammy-nominated "Hittin' The Ramp: The Early Years (1936-1943)" Nat King Cole box set. The link to his website is the following : <https://www.nickrossiarts.com/>. At Ellington 2023, Nick Rossi will talk about Ellington's guitarist for many years Fred Guy.