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CURTIS

Musical Background

I have been playing guitar for over 20 years. I started with classical and then moved on to rock, blues and jazz from there; I found the electric guitar much more appealing than acoustic. I had some great teachers when I was a pre-teen and teenager, including Pete Ziza on



classical, Terry Kilgore on rock, and Jimmy Wyble on jazz. The best teachers can really show you how to teach yourself, but ultimately you have to put in the time yourself to make it happen. Actually, the best teacher is a tape recorder.

New CD

Blue Electric Cool was written and developed over the past two years and was actually tracked, mixed and mastered the second half of 2004. The drums, horns, mixing and mastering was done in pro studios, and all the guitars, bass and keys were done in my home studio. All tracking was done on ProTools. This CD is definitely a growth and departure from my previous efforts and also includes a new band; Rob Chismar on drums and Dave Hill on bass. Since my last CD, *Room 137*, I became a huge fan of Acid Jazz, which in turn worked its way into my compositions. I made use of loops and samples to add surprise and flavor. I also worked with a horn section for the first time, which added a great dimension to the material. I feel *Blue Electric Cool* takes the "Instrumental Guitar" genre a step further and it can be enjoyed by people other than just guitar players. Each track stands on its own, with a common thread holding them all together. The guitar is front and center, but the variety of styles and tones keeps the listener from getting bored.

Favorite Guitars

The main guitars used on this CD were, a Fender Custom Shop Classic Strat, and a Tom Anderson Classic Drop Top. I tend to lean more to the Strat, but sometimes there's no substitute for a humbucker in the bridge position. I also used my Les Paul on some tracks. For amps I used a Marshall 50-watt Plexi reissue and a 1965 Fender Deluxe. A variety of distortion/overdrive pedals were used as well; there are some many shades of dirt and I like to explore them all. I have detailed track notes on each tune at the web site www.BlueElectricCool.com.

Musical Influences

I count some many musicians as influences; I hate to pick favorites. Here are some albums that I can listen to over and over again: Pat Metheny *First Circle*, Eric Johnson *Ah Via Musicom*, Miles Davis *Kind of Blue*, Stevie Ray Vaughn *Couldn't Stand the Weather*, Jeff Beck *Wired*, Van Halen, *The Essential Stan Getz*, Nicole Conte *Bossa per Due*

Web Site

Full details on the new CD are at www.BlueElectricCool.com

The CD is available at: www.cdbaby.com/curtisguitar

The official Curtis web site is www.curtisguitar.com

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