

The guitar can howl, scrape, scratch, scream, sing, soothe, and dream. This is the story of the people who have given the modern guitar its voice—bold, singular personalities who here reveal their sometimes wild, often zigzagging, and ultimately profound journeys toward beauty, meaning, and excellence in their work.

Guitar Talk lets us listen in on frank, wide-ranging conversations between Joel Harrison and Nels Cline, Pat Metheny, Fred Frith, Bill Frisell, Mary Halvorson, Julian Lage, Elliott Sharp, Michael Gregory Jackson, Ben Monder, Anthony Pirog, Henry Kaiser, Mike and Leni Stern, Vernon Reid, Nguyễn Lê, Rez Abbasi, Ava Mendoza, Liberty Ellman, Brandon Ross, Wayne Krantz, Dave Fiuczynski, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Miles Okazaki, Sheryl Bailey, Rafiq Bhatia, and Ralph Towner—twenty-seven great guitarists in all.

“The work that Joel has done to showcase the development of the guitar and the expanded role that it has taken in music is a testament to the almost unlimited sonic dimensions the word ‘guitar’ can invoke in the imagination of musicians and fans alike.”

—Pat Metheny

“I look to these players as teachers. They have shown what it means to be grounded in humanity—to be someone who cultivates mastery of the instrument as a means of bringing beauty and healing to the world.”

—from the Foreword by Julian Lage

“Joel Harrison brings a kind of insight to these interviews that only being a fine player-composer in his own right can afford. He has created a terrific primer for anyone interested in the directions improvised guitar has taken in the last half-century.”

—Michael Ross, *guitarmoderne.com*

“Harrison explores the motivation and psyche of his subjects in remarkably revealing terms. His insights are refreshing, his assessments spot-on.”

—Bill Milkowski

Terra Nova Press
NEWARK CALLICOON MATSALU

Distributed by the MIT Press
Printed in Estonia

US \$27.95 / \$36.95 CAN

ISBN 978-1-949597-13-4

5 2 7 9 5 >



9 781949 597134

Guitar Talk

Conversations
with Visionary
Players

Joel
Harrison

TERRA
NOVA

Guitar Talk

Conversations with Visionary Players

Joel Harrison