

Rez Abassi - BIO

Throughout Europe, Canada, the U.S., Mexico and India – Rez Abassi is considered one of the foremost modern jazz guitar players today. His rising star status has placed him beside the best international talent industry-wide including Grammy award winning pop-jazz singer-songwriter Ruth Brown, pop and jazz drummer-leader Peter Erskine (Steely Dan), award winning jazz pianist-composer Kenny Werner, jazz drummer-composer Billy Hart, drummer-composer Marvin 'Smitty' Smith (*Tonight Show* with Jay Leno). His credits continue with internationally world music fusion leaders including Indian flautist-composer Pandit Ronu Majumdar, pan-cultural fusion jazz saxophonist-composer Pandit Kadri Gopalnath, and Grammy award winning Indian slide guitarist-composer Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. His rising star status has landed him beside innovative peers including trumpeter-composer Dave Douglas, alto saxophonist-composer Rudresh Mahanthappa, and appropriately so, saxophonist-composer George Brooks known for successfully bridging jazz with Indian classical music. Rez is an integral instrumental force within Rudresh Mahanthappa's award winning groups, The Indo-Pak Coalition and Kinsmen listed in twenty (20) top ten lists for 2008. With this ensemble, he has played world-class festivals including Montreal and Newport Jazz Fests. In a relatively short period of time, Rez has received high profile mainstream attention including feature interviews with NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Rolling Stone Magazine India* and the *New York Times*. One can only surmise that world music and jazz enthusiasts can expect much, much more is to come from the rare pan-cultural voice of guitarist-composer Rez Abassi.