

Donato Soviero has been working in and around the DC area for twenty years as a performer. Noted for his superb artistry as a guitarist and composer, Donato's versatility affords him equal comfort in many venues, both as bandleader and sideman. While his roots are firmly planted in the tradition of mainstream jazz, his scope of musical interest is nonetheless wide. As composer and arranger, these influences can often be heard shaping his own unique voice.

As a teenager, Donato's inspiration to play the guitar came from Wes Montgomery, and Jimi Hendrix. Later, Joe Pass, Howard Roberts, and Emily Remler were among his teachers. A resident of the Washington D.C. area since 1982, Donato has appeared with top local and national artists, as well as leading many of his own groups in the United States, Europe and the Caribbean.

Locally, Donato has played at the Kennedy Center, Blues Alley, The One Step Down, Corcoran's Hammer Auditorium, Twins Jazz, Bohemian Caverns, and The Smithsonian's Imax Jazz Cafe. At the Carter Barron Amphitheater Donato opened for Poncho Sanchez and Tito Puente with a program of all original Latin music composed for the occasion. He has appeared with national artists at Wolftrap, the Convention Center, and RFK Stadium. Donato has also played for Presidents, and at the State Department for the Thelonious Monk Institute. Mr. Soviero has been the recipient of several awards, including a 1994 TAP Award from the D.C. Commission of the Arts and Humanities and a 1995 GIA Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Donato is ever expanding and evolving as a musician and improviser. Frequently self-effacing in manner, his stated goal is simply self-discovery through music. "Ultimately it's not about the music, it's about you- and finding your place in the world... listening is key to that process."

Recordings include a self-titled CD, several features as sideman and CD tribute to Charlie Byrd entitled "Classical Jazz." Tom Cole, host of WPFW'S 'G STRINGS' has this to say about his guitar playing: "Donato's beautiful phrasing and impressive improvising took me aback...He's one of those real surprises."