

Jazz Guitarist/Composer Rick Langmaack (born October 2, 1959) started playing the guitar at age nine, and began performing on a professional level by age eleven. Throughout the years he has performed with a number of local and recognized musicians in a variety of musical situations involving jazz and improvisation. He has released 2 albums as a leader, "Cat Music" in 1997 and "Renewal" in 2014, and has recorded 3 albums as a sideman, "How's That" with the Mike Kaplan Nonet, "Kaleidoscope" by Matt King, and "Portraits" by Pete Macdonald. He also has a number of unreleased recorded material dating back more than 25 years.

Rick's father was a self taught musician who played harmonica and also had a natural singing voice. Although he was never a performing musician, he would play and sing for the family, providing Rick with his first exposure to music. By age eleven, he and his brother Tom formed a Combo consisting of Rick on Guitar, Tom on drums, and a third musician on electric accordion. This band was a working band, performing many types of music from ethnic music to popular show-tunes, jazz, rock, country and more.

Rick's early musical experiences were positive and encouraging, which gave him the desire to pursue a career in music. He had the good fortune to have been exposed to many types of music at an early age, as well as many types of performing situations, which became an important part of his development as a musician through the years, and is now evident in both his guitar playing and his composing style.

At age fifteen Rick began guitar lessons with local legend Harry Leahey, marking a major turning point for his development as a guitarist and musician. It was during his years of study with Mr. Leahey that he became totally engrossed in the guitar, focusing on Jazz and improvisational music as well as composition. At age 17, Rick attended William Paterson College as a Jazz Performance Major, where he continued his studies with Harry Leahey, and also had the opportunity to study with many other great musicians including Rufus Reid, Bucky Pizzarelli, Thad Jones, Harold Mabern, and others as well.

Although he had been exposed to a variety of music at an early age, it was during his years of study with Harry Leahey and at William Paterson that he became aware of what were to be some of his major musical influences. Although the list is long, some of the musicians that have had the biggest impact on him include: Harry Leahey, Jim Hall, Miles Davis, Ralph Towner, Charlie Haden, Keith Jarrett, and Thelonius Monk.

Upon completion of his college degree, Rick continued his studies with a number of musicians such as Tal Farlow, Eric Kloss, Ted Dunbar, Ken Werner and John Abercrombie. He continued to hone his skills both as a performer and composer, while embarking on a music career with countless performances throughout the Tri-State area including Jazz Concerts and Festivals, Television and Cable TV appearances, and a private teaching practice. He has performed and recorded with a number of noted musicians including: Harry Leahey, Steve Marcus, Ben Monder, Vic Juris, Chris Potter, Doug Weiss, Ben Street, Kermit Driscoll, Steve Laspina, Drew Gress, and others as well.

In 1997, Rick released his debut CD entitled, "Cat Music", which includes standard jazz tunes as well as original compositions performed in a variety of jazz styles. The diversity of arrangements is a good example of his involvement in and appreciation of many different types of music. Featured on the CD are: Rick on guitar, Doug Weiss and Dave Richards on Bass, Pete Macdonald on Drums, and Rob Heinke on Trumpet.

After a number of years performing and recording as a sideman, in July of 2014, he released his second album as a leader entitled "Renewal". All selections from this recording feature his original compositions. As in his debut recording, One can hear a wide variety of musical influences in the compositions as well as the performances. Featured on the album are: Rick on electric and acoustic guitars, Bob Hanlon on Tenor and Soprano Saxophones, Doug Weiss on Bass, Pete Macdonald on drums, and Rob Henke on Trumpet (tracks 7, 10).

Rick currently spends his time playing, writing, and recording as much as possible. He performs and records with a host of musical associates and close friends, and is working on a few new recording projects featuring his original compositions as well as jazz standards and other music as well.