



JOE PASS

"CATCH ME!"

featuring Clare Fischer, piano



HIGH DEFINITION TAPE TRANSFERS



Joe Pass (born Joseph Anthony Jacobi Passalacqua, January 13, 1929 – May 23, 1994) was an American virtuoso jazz guitarist of Sicilian descent. He is generally considered to be one of the greatest jazz guitarists of the 20th century. His sophisticated style of chord-melody, with an outstanding knowledge of chord inversions and progressions, extensive use of walking basslines, and melodic counterpoint during improvisation, opened up new possibilities for the jazz guitar and had a profound influence on later guitarists.

Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Joe Pass, the son of Mariano Passalacqua, a Sicilian-born steel mill worker, was raised in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He received his first guitar, a Harmony model bought for \$17, on his 9th birthday. Pass' father recognized early that his son had "a little something happening" and pushed him constantly to pick up tunes by ear, play pieces not written specifically for the instrument, practice scales and not to "leave any spaces" – that is, to fill in the sonic space between the notes of the melody.

As early as 14, Pass started getting gigs and was playing with bands fronted by Tony Pastor and Charlie Barnet, honing his guitar skills and learning the music business. He began traveling with small jazz groups and eventually moved from Pennsylvania to New York City. In a few years, he developed a heroin addiction and spent much of the 1950s in prison. Pass managed to emerge from narcotics addiction through a two-and-a-half-year stay in the Synanon rehabilitation program. During that time he "didn't do a lot of playing". In 1962 he recorded *Sounds of Synanon*. It was about this time that Pass received his trademark Gibson ES-175 guitar as a gift, which he subsequently used for touring and recording for many years.

Discovery and subsequent career

Pass recorded a series of albums during the 1960s for the Pacific Jazz label, including the early classics *Catch Me*, *12-String Guitar*, *For Django*, and *Simplicity*. In 1963, Pass received *Downbeat* magazine's "New Star Award." Pass was also featured on Pacific Jazz recordings by Gerald Wilson, Bud Shank, and Les McCann.

Pass toured with George Shearing in 1965. During the 1960s however, he did mostly TV and recording session work in Los Angeles.

He was a sideman with Louis Bellson, Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughan, Joe Williams, Della Reese, Johnny Mathis, and worked on TV shows including *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, *The Merv Griffin Show*, *The Steve Allen Show*, and others. In the early 1970s, Pass and guitarist Herb Ellis were performing together regularly at Donte's jazz club in Los Angeles. This collaboration led to Pass and Ellis recording the very first album on the new Concord Jazz label, entitled simply *Jazz/Concord (#CJS-1)*, along with bassist Ray Brown and drummer Jake Hanna. In the early 1970s, Pass also collaborated on a series of music books, and his *Joe Pass Guitar Style* (written with Bill Thrasher) is considered a leading improvisation textbook for students of jazz.

Norman Granz, the producer of Jazz at the Philharmonic and the founder of Verve Records signed Pass to Granz's new Pablo Records label in 1970. In 1974, Pass released his landmark solo album *Virtuoso* on Pablo Records. Also in 1974, Pablo Records released the album *The Trio* featuring Pass, Oscar Peterson, and Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen. He performed with them on many occasions throughout the 1970s and 1980s. At the Grammy Awards of 1975, *The Trio* won the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Performance by a Group. As part of the Pablo Records "stable," Pass also recorded with Benny Carter, Milt Jackson, Herb Ellis, Zoot Sims, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, and others. Pass and Ella Fitzgerald recorded six albums together on Pablo Records, toward the end of Fitzgerald's career: *Take Love Easy* (1973), *Fitzgerald and Pass... Again* (1976), *"Hamburg Duets - 1976"* (1976), *"Sophisticated Lady"* (1975, 1983), *Speak Love* (1983), and *Easy Living* (1986).

In 1994, Joe Pass died from liver cancer in Los Angeles, California at the age of 65. Prior to his death, he had recorded an album of instrumental versions of Hank Williams songs with country guitarist Roy Clark.

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| 1 Falling In Love With Love 5:44 | 6 Walkin' Up 3:15 |
| 2 Summertime 6:18 | 7 But Beautiful 2:37 |
| 3 Mood Indigo 5:08 | 8 No Cover No Minimum 5:36 |
| 4 Catch Me 3:05 | 9 You Stepped Out Of A Dream 3:07 |
| 5 Just Friends 3:34 | Total Time: 38:24 |

Transferred from a 15ips 2-track tape

Recorded 1963 at Pacific Jazz Studios, Hollywood, California

Engineer - Dino Lappas Producer - Richard Bock



For more info e-mail us:
admin@highdeftapetransfers.com
or visit our website:
www.highdeftapetransfers.com