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JOE PASS

(1929-1994)

Joe Pass is one of the most revered guitarists in jazz, one whose music dazzles the listener with its virtuosity and constant inventiveness, while still offering a straightforward representation of the style and its repertoire. A great frontman for a quartet or larger group, he also filled the space beautifully in duo or trio settings, and served as an excellent accompanist. But he is perhaps best known for his breathtaking solo guitar work, with which he set the standard for generations of players to come.

Born Joseph Anthony Passalacqua, he grew up in a working-class Italian-American family in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with a father who demanded constant, intense guitar practice from early on. After leaving home to pursue the jazz scene in New York and on the road, Joe wrestled for years with drug addiction, during which time he remained largely unknown. His eventual recovery led directly to his earliest widespread recognition, after recording *Sounds of Synanon* (1962) with fellow musician inmates of the famed California rehab center. He continued with a string of his own titles through the mid-'60s, including the sublime quartet session *For Django* (1964). In the 1970s, his world-stage career blossomed as he joined forces with all-time greats such as Oscar Peterson, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, and fellow guitarist Herb Ellis, while also beginning his famous forays into solo performance. Many fine albums came out of this period, not the least among them the masterful duo effort *Chops* (1978), with bassist (and Peterson bandmate) Niels-Henning Ørsted-Pedersen.

This volume contains all of Joe's solos from 33 of his landmark recordings, drawn from 11 monumental albums spanning more than 20 years and featuring the smokin' single-note lines of *Catch Me!*, the brilliant chord-melody pieces of the *Virtuoso* solo guitar series, and the rich and varied trio textures of *Intercontinental*.

You'll find these helpful features in this "omni" volume:

- **More than 45 note-for-note solo transcriptions**
- **Standard Notation and tab**
- **Chord symbols to facilitate analyzing the solos and to provide a framework for accompaniment**
- **Time stamps at the beginning of each solo**
- **Recording reference included with the song title**