

John “Bucky” Pizzarelli



John “Bucky” Pizzarelli is a world-renowned jazz guitarist who was born in Paterson, NJ on January 9, 1926. His uncles Peter and Bobby Domenick, musicians who also hailed from New Jersey, taught Bucky the guitar.

His career spans over 70 years from the Vaughn Monroe Orchestra, to the Johnny Carson Tonight Show. Hundreds of jazz concerts worldwide, including White House performances for both Presidents Reagan and Clinton with Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Claude “Fiddler” Williams and Perry Como.

His numerous worldwide tours also included performances with practically every jazz legend such as; Stephane Grapelli, Slam Stewart, Tal Farlow, Rosemary Clooney, Zoot Sims, Benny Carter, Michael Feinstein and Charlie Byrd to name a few. He has hundreds of jazz recordings with every major jazz great, including his own solo albums and work with his two sons John and Martin Pizzarelli. He is on the soundtrack of Woody Allens “Sweet and Lowdown” and appeared on PBS with Les Paul and Tal Farlow THE NEW JERSEY JAZZ GUITARS [Filmed at Rutgers University] In 2012 Bucky recorded with Sir Paul McCartney on the Grammy Award Winning Album “Kisses On The Bottom”

Bucky has also been honored with many prestigious awards, which include the Jazz Wall of Fame by ASCAP in 2005, Three honorary Doctors of Music degrees from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ and the University of Southern Illinois@ Edwardsville in 2003. In 2002 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Manhattan Association of Cabarets. Most recently in June of 2011 Bucky was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

In addition, he has been recognized for his service to his community and was awarded several honors such as: The Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies: American Hall of Fame. The Distinguished Artist Award of Bergen County, Montclair State University “Carpe Diem” award for distinguished achievement in the arts and the Lifetime Achievement Award at Centenary College’s Performing Arts Guild.

Last year, Bucky became one of the very first musicians in New Jersey to have two of his guitars, along with a recorded history of his lifetime in music, inducted into the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

He served on the faculty of William Paterson University, in Wayne, NJ and continues to give back to his community with various performances throughout the state.

He developed his own technique on the 7-string guitar and has written and published 3 guitar instructional method books.

He has lived in New Jersey his entire life and currently resides in Saddle River, NJ with wife Ruth for over 60 years. He raised 4 children and also has an extensive collection of original paintings.