

Assaf Kehati – long bio

jazz guitarist and composer

"His band features a marvelously spacious sound, austere yet melodic soloing, group interplay that's scarily telepathic and all-stars at every position". - KEVIN CONVEY, BOSTON HERALD.

Mr. Kehati has performed at some of the world's leading venues as Blue Note, NYC; Washington D.C. Jazz Festival; MuzEnergO Jazz Festival, Russia; New England Cable News, Tel Aviv Museum, Barranquilla Jazz Festival, Colombia; Bansko Jazz Festival; Bulgaria, Nisville Jazz Festival; Serbia, and Toronto Jazz Festival. Kehati played with world-class musicians such as George Garzone, Eli Degibri, Anat Cohen, Ferenc Nemeth, Donny McCaslin, Seamus Blake and legendary drummers Victor Lewis (Woody Shaw, Stan Getz) and Billy Hart (Miles Davis, Wes Montgomery). Billy Hart (drums), Seamus Blake (sax), Eli Degibri (sax), Victor Lewis (drums), Will Vinson (sax), Donny McCaslin (sax).



ASSAF KEHATI currently residing in New York, arrived to Boston in 2007 after finishing his jazz studies at prestigious Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music (member of Berklee International Network), Israel. He has been exposed to music since he was born. His grandmother was a professional pianist from whom he learned his first music notes. He started to play piano and guitar at the age of ten, later followed by classical violin. After being involved with different music styles for nearly ten years, he started to take interest in jazz.

Shortly after, he was accepted to Rimon School. A few months into his jazz studies, he already became the winner of a number of local jazz awards, including the third place of "the Jazz Player" national competition in Israel. He also became a member of internationally recognized Rimon Honors Ensemble, "Hot Jazz", which featured famous Australian jazz fusion guitarist, Frank Gambale.

While in Israel, Kehati performed with many prominent musicians including Alon Farber (Fresh Sound Label), Shai Chen, Haggai Amir and Daniel Sapir (Yehuda Poliker Band). He appeared at the Tel Aviv Jazz Festival, Channel 22 TV, Shablul Jazz Club, Machtsh Ramon Jazz Festival and at the Israel National Festival in Jerusalem.

After receiving a scholarship to pursue his graduate studies at New England Conservatory, he moved to Boston and was immediately noticed by such famous artists and faculty members as Ran Blake, George Garzone and Billy Hart, who later joined his trio.



Mr. Kehati has recorded three CDs that have received numerous rave reviews – *A View From My Window* (2010) and *Flowers and Other Stories* (2011) and his latest album, *Naked* (2014). His compositions are inspired by the daily and trivial, yet wonderful and significant experiences of life: from a winter, snow-laden view of Fenway Park from his apartment porch (*A View From My Window*), to the mundane but satisfying life of a snail (*Sunshine Berale*), to a girl seeking love in a land beyond the oceans (*The Snow and the Sun*), and to a story about the universal character, Mr. Mario that travels the world like a gypsy to places like Africa, the Middle East and the Pyramids in Egypt (*Mr. Mario*). The third album by Mr. Kehati, “NAKED”, was released in September 2014.

His imagination has been fed over the years by a wide range of influences such as Berlioz, Kenny Rogers, Pat Metheny, Sting, and Gershwin.

Kehati opens his performances with one or two intimate jazz standards. He connects traditional Jazz with contemporary compositions. The standards give the audience a taste of his interpretation, his deep emotion, his musical motives, ideas, and vision that reflect later in the performance of his intriguing original compositions.

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