

## Mark Towns – Latin Jazz / Flamenco Jazz Guitarist & Composer

**Mark Towns** is a virtuoso trailblazer of guitar-based instrumental Afro-Caribbean Jazz, composing and performing music that blurs the lines between Latin Jazz, Flamenco Jazz, Brazilian Jazz, Salsa, Funk, and Fusion. Inspired by masters like Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, and Cal Tjader, Towns combines the sophistication of Jazz and Flamenco with the earthy soul of Texas Blues and Rock to create a sound that's entirely his own. **His recorded catalog has attracted over 2 million streams on Spotify alone, a testament to the broad and growing appeal of his musical vision.** As renowned music critic Paul MacArthur (*Houston Press*) wrote, "Mark Towns isn't just playing Latin Jazz—he's making sure it continues to evolve."

### Celebrity & Press Accolades:

"Mark Towns' music is a 'must hear.'" – Cybill Shepherd

"It's people like Mark Towns who are helping keep Latin Jazz music alive." – Tito Puente

"There are only a few really good guitarists. Mark Towns is one of them." – Larry Coryell

"Put a guitar in his hands and Mark Towns is otherworldly." – Shea Serrano, *Houston Press*

"Everyone loves it. Mark's guitar playing has become a special musical personality." – Hubert Laws

"I like this vato!" – Poncho Sanchez

"Mark's music has an intensity to it that makes you want to move and dance, and yet it really relaxes you too." – Kirk Whalum

"Whether performing straight ahead jazz, Latin music, Flamenco, or all of the above, Mark Towns always plays with creativity and inventive logic in his own voice. His music is both accessible and unpredictable with plenty of joyful surprises heard along the way." – Scott Yanow, *Jazz Journalist/Historian*

"Mark Towns' music has the piquancy and surprise of the best Latin-inflected jazz, with a sense of space unique to his Southwestern roots meeting the sophistication of his residency in Los Angeles. Mark is a deft, lyrical guitarist--the bright arrangements of his pretty original tunes, the quick, tight, shifting rhythm section featuring hot pianist Rainel Pino, and the simpatico guest appearances by flutist Hubert Laws reward my repeated listening with growing pleasure." – Howard Mandel, *Down Beat*

"Stupendously wonderful!" – Dr. Jazz, Dr. Jazz Operations, Detroit, MI

"Smart, fun and mesmerizing." – *Houston Press*

"Beautiful! Mark's playing is silky, sleek and elegant. It's quite lovely." – Donna McKenzie, 95.7 FM The Wave, Houston

"Mark Towns' music is at times understated in a sensuous and elegantly introspective way, and at times driving and irresistible. Its subtle contrasts of moods and textures are the qualities that make it so evocative and gratifying." – Michele Brangwen, Brangwen Dance Company

"Mark's compositions really take you on a journey, and special guest Hubert Laws is right at home playing them. I find the collective compositions of Mark Towns to be an amazing body of work that displays a guitar master telling some great stories with his songs." – Greg Schreve, *Waterjet Chronicles*

"I love it! I have to put it on the air today." – Emily Hernandez, Programmer, DMX Music, L.A.

## Collaborations

Mark Towns has performed and/or recorded with:

Hubert Laws, Kirk Whalum, Cybill Shepherd, Rickie Lee Jones, Chaka Khan, Poncho Sanchez, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, Stanley Clarke, Larry Coryell, Arturo Sandoval, Pharoah Sanders, Dave Valentin, Yomo Toro, Chucho Valdés, Airtó Moreira, Oscar Hernandez, Augie Meyers, Pete Barbutti, Clay Aiken, and more.

Mark Towns holds numerous film and television credits as a musician, including appearances on the Emmy Award-winning series *Veep* and *Desperate Housewives*, and has performed at international festivals with the prestigious Polish National Ballet.

## Venues & Festivals

- Jazz Zone – Lima, Peru
- The Jazz Café – San José, Costa Rica
- The Baked Potato – Los Angeles, CA
- Tribeca Rooftop – New York City
- Puerto Vallarta Spring Festival – Mexico
- Live Oak Music Festival – Santa Barbara, CA
- Texas Jazz Festival – Corpus Christi, TX
- Eclectic Festival – South Pasadena, CA
- Laguna Beach Live – Laguna Beach, CA
- House of Blues (Houston, TX)
- Antone's (Austin), Catalina Jazz Club (Los Angeles), Elephant Room (Austin), Yaamava Casino (Highland, CA), Houston International Festival, Art Car Parade Houston, Austin Salsa Festival, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and many more.

## Selected Discography

- *Unspoken Invitation* – Mark Towns with Hubert Laws
- *Passion* – Mark Towns with Hubert Laws
- *Flamenco Jazz Latino* – Mark Towns with Kirk Whalum & Hubert Laws
- *Latinology* – Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox (feat. Mark Towns)
- *Cumbia Guitarra* – Bongo Surfo (feat. Mark Towns)
- *Jumba* – Zip Dagger (feat. Mark Towns)

## About

A true prodigy, Mark began writing songs on piano at six, and by the age of ten, he had taught himself guitar and began performing with his first band.

Born to a Spanish mother and an American father, he grew up immersed in a blend of cultures that would later shape his global musical voice. Through his mother, he was introduced at an early age to the passionate sounds of Flamenco guitar legends Niño Ricardo and Sabicas, influences that left a lasting impression on his developing style.

As he continued drawing inspiration from a wide spectrum of artists and genres—from the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix to Miles Davis and Tito Puente, he emerged as a boundary-breaking guitarist with a passion for rhythm and improvisation across cultures.

His music today continues to reflect both a deep reverence for Afro-Caribbean traditions and a fearless modern aesthetic. From fiery Latin grooves to romantic Spanish ballads, Mark Towns' music is a unique fusion of esoteric hipness and universal accessibility.

## Booking, Music & Contact

**Mark Towns is available for:**

- **Live performances** – Latin Jazz / Flamenco Jazz ensembles, Solo Spanish and Classical guitar
- **Studio work** – Guitar tracking, remote session work, producing/arranging, Guest Soloist
- **Clinics & Workshops** – Latin Jazz Guitar, Latin Rhythm Arranging, Music Business and Booking

**For bookings, press, or licensing inquiries:**

email: music at marktowns dot com

**Listen & connect:**

<https://linktr.ee/marktowns>

