

Steven Kirby Quintet live at Brandon Music

Guitarist, composer, educator Steven Kirby has built a reputation for performing exciting, melodic, lyrical and expressive mainstream and contemporary jazz music. Described as “richly textured, multi-layered, ebullient and lyrical jazz”, he writes original compositions and arrangements, as well as creative arrangements of standard tunes, using a quintet of instrumentalists and a singer performing both wordless and lyrical vocals. The *Boston Globe* says “Kirby plays and writes from inside the music, putting melody and feeling first.” The Boston-based quintet performs at Brandon Music on July 8 at 7:30pm.

The Quintet includes Kirby’s arrangements and compositions, with him on guitar, John Funkhouser on keyboard, Mark Poniatowski on bass, and Mike Connors on drums with special guest vocalist, Aubrey Johnson.

Jazz Times says Kirby’s “creative music – frequently beautiful and always well played – results from personal expression that transcends mere imitation”. His most recent album ‘Illuminations’ was an Editor’s Pick earlier this year in the prestigious jazz publication *Downbeat*: “Steven Kirby, a guitarist of rippling technique and a poetic mind, has developed a modern jazz guitar style that bridges the angular lyricism of Pat Metheny and the painterly asceticism of Jim Hall.”

His music has been played on over 100 radio stations in the US and internationally including features on NPR’s ‘Here and Now’, ‘Jazz with Bob Parlocha’ and ‘Eric in the Evening’. An Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music, Kirby’s jazz compositions have won awards in the International Songwriting Competition, the Billboard Song Contest and *Downbeat*.

He has appeared on over 25 released recordings, including three as a leader and has performed and/or recorded with many of today’s most respected contemporary musicians including Chris Potter, George Garzone, Mike Manieri (Steps Ahead), Scott Colley, Bruce Barth, Joe Lovano, Javon Jackson, Harvie Swartz, Joe Hunt, Steve Hunt, George Schuller, Allan Holdsworth, Matt Malley (of Counting Crows) and others. He has toured in the U.S., Canada, the UK, Caribbean, Europe, China and Africa.

This event is a part of Vermont Arts 2017, celebrating public funding for the arts.

Concert tickets are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$25. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. Call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net for reservations or for more information. Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT 05733 www.brandon-music.net