

# MARK TONELLI

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Mark Tonelli is a musician and educator based in Decatur, IL. He is assistant professor of music and coordinator of Guitar Studies at Millikin University. He is an Illinois Humanities Road Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar to Brazil.

Mark enjoys an active performing career. He has worked with a wide variety of artists: American Idol Clay Aiken, Broadway legend Rita Moreno, rock icons The Platters; crooner Bobby Rydell; and jazz musician Peter Erskine. He has been seen on Fox News and in the Emmy-nominated PBS special *Marina At West Point*.

Mark has had residencies in the major music hubs of New York City, Dallas, and Kansas City. In NY, he performed at 55 Bar, Cornelia St. Cafe, and St. Peter's Church; in Dallas at Sambuca, The Ft. Worth Jazz Festival, and a weekly residency at My Martini in Arlington; and in Kansas City at the Green Lady Lounge, Blue Room, and The Art Factory.

Mark's group has released three critically-acclaimed recordings on the MTONal Music label. The group appears frequently across the country, performing Mark's award-winning original compositions, rock pieces reimagined for jazz, and Brazilian gems.

For ten years, Mark was the guitarist for the U.S. Army Jazz Knights, touring and performing in some of the nation's top venues, including Jazz Standard, Blues Alley, Jazz Showcase, Kennedy Center, Jazz Kitchen, and Avery Fisher Hall. With the Jazz Knights, Mark performed with a who's who of jazz legends including Benny Golson, Billy Cobham, Bobby Watson, Rufus Reid, and Bob Mintzer, as well as the Boston Pops and the New York Philharmonic Brass Quintet.

Mark's music has been featured on National Public Radio's (NPR) *All Things Considered*. He has been a winner or finalist in the *Billboard Magazine World Song Contest* and the *USA Songwriting Competition*. His jazz ensemble arrangements are published by *UNC Jazz Press* and *FJH Music*, and his music for guitar ensemble is published by *Guitar Chamber Press*.

Mark is the author of "Everybody's Jazz Guitar Method," "Way To Play: Jazz Guitar Riffs and Chords," and "Way To Play: Chord Melody," published by the *FJH Music Company*; and "Entrepreneurship in Action: The Power of Student-Run Ventures," published by *Edward Elgar*. He has written for *Guitar Player*, *Downbeat*, *JazzEd*, *Just Jazz Guitar*, and *The Instrumentalist*. He has made presentations at major music conferences, including the *Jazz Education Network*, *National Association for Music Education (NAfME)*, and the *College Music Society*. He proudly endorses *D'Addario Strings* and *Eastman Guitars*.

