

Nils

Recording Artist, Producer, Composer

NILS, one of contemporary Jazz' most well known and revered musicians, who for nearly 20 years as a solo artist has been a force to be reckoned with, achieving major accolades along the way, most notably from Billboard, scoring the esteemed charts song of the decade, 2000-2010 ("Pacific Coast Highway"), song of the year, 2011 ("Jump Start") and over 15 top 20 radio hits. Nils is enjoying ongoing success on the Billboard Smooth Jazz Songs chart as producer and co-writer of pianist Lisa Addeo's "Listen to This," the first new title to reach the pole position in 2020.

Born and raised in Munich Germany, Nils (pronounced Neels) picked up his first guitar as teenager. He was inspired by American black funk music, and the music of bands like Earth, Wind and Fire and Chaka Kahn still influence his musical taste today.

Moving to L.A. in the mid-80s, he continued his guitar studies and studying composition, and arrangement. While acquiring his production skills as a studio engineer in the 90s, he started doing sessions as a rhythm guitarist for everyone from Rick Braun to The Temptations giving him dynamic background as a versatile R&B/Pop guitarist. Over the years, he has worked with greats like George Clinton and has a platinum record for his contributions to The Temptations 1998 album Phoenix Rising.

He contributed as a musician on and co-writer of "Keep Rollin'" on Benson's 1998 album Standing Together, and the guitar and vocal legend returned the favor by playing a duet with Nils Nils' 1998 debut CD Blue Planet; Blue Planet also featured performances by Gerald Albright, Nathan East and the late vocalist Carl Anderson.





These past few years, Nils has become an exciting behind the scenes force as a songwriter and producer for emerging and established artists. Besides the chart topping CD he produced and co-wrote for Lisa Addeo , he has had his hand in successful releases in recent years by independent instrumental artists Reza Khan, Alvin Pope, Reggie Codrington, Catch the Groove, Brian Simpson, Nate Harasim, and Tony Saunders.

Nils is also very active on social media, with over 7,500 followers on his Facebook artists page and some 2,000 subscribers to his YouTube channel; his clips for “Pacific Coast Highway” has more than half a million views to date. This spring and summer, he will be on the road performing assorted festival dates with Steve Oliver and Tim Bowman as part of the all-star collective Guitar G-Force.

The secrets of Nils’ unparalleled success? It starts with a keen ear for hooks, a colorful spirit of experimentation with sounds and grooves, and a trademark vibe rooted in his mastery of the Custom Valley Arts guitar, the trusty musical companion he bought shortly after moving to Los Angeles from his native Munich in the mid-80’s. Beyond that, it’s all about the incredible team of mostly L.A. based musicians he calls in each time to help him not only realize his musical vision, but take it over the top.



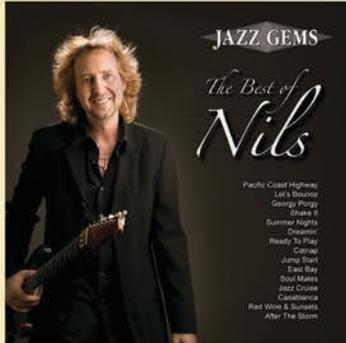
Nils has headlined some of the largest festivals and clubs across the US and Europe throughout his stellar career. His lively stage presence and crackling electric vibe are backed by an exciting band including keyboardist/singer Clydene Jackson, whose credits include appearing on the film soundtrack of "The Lion King" and percussionist Oliver C. Brown, an original member of KC and the Sunshine Band. The interplay between Nils and Clydene on stage has a sort of magical synergy that entices audiences to groove along with them.

NOTABLE LIVE PERFORMANCES

Mallorca Jazz Festival - Mallorca, Spain
Catalina Island Jazz Trax Festival - Avalon, CA
Jazz Fest West - San Dimas, CA
City Of Lights Festival - Las Vegas, NV
Seabreeze Jazz Festival - Dustin, FL
Norfolk Jazz Festival - Norfolk, VA
WSJT's Smooth Jazz Fest - Clearwater, FL
Jazz on the Green - Ft Myers, FL
Temecula Jazz Festival - Temecula, CA
Long Beach Jazz Festival - Long Beach, CA
Lexus Jazz Festival - Newport Beach, CA
Jazz, Funk and Soul Festival - Augsburg, Germany
Ultimate Jazz Festival - Ontario, CA
Jazz, Funk and Soul Festival at the Cube - Austria
Ellington Jazz Radio Concert - Berlin, Germany
Concert at the Park - San Antonio, TX
Winter Park Art & Jazz Fest - Winter Park, FL
Summer Jazz Festival - San Antonio, TX
San Diego Jazz Festival - San Diego, CA
Smooth Jazz Fall Festival - Davenport, IA
Comerica City Fest - Detroit, MI
Grand Rapids Jazz Festival - MI

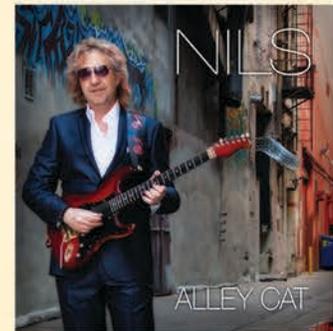
Pizza Express - London, UK
Cinnamon Club - Manchester, UK
Jazz on the Islands - Sarasota, FL
Jazz in the Woods - Overland Park, KS
Breckenridge Summer Festival - Breckenridge, CO
Mable House Barnes Amphitheater - Atlanta, GA
City Jazz Fest at PGE Park - Portland OR
Jazz on the River - Fayetteville, NC
Yoshi's - Oakland, CA
Jazz Alley - Seattle, WA
Spaghetini's - Seal Beach, CA
Humphreys by the Bay - San Diego, CA
Bethesda Blues and Supper Club - Bethesda, MD
Jazz at Jack's - Denver, CO
Jazz Kitchen - Indianapolis, IN
WLOQ Jazz Jams - Altamonte Springs, FL
Aliante Hotel and Casino - Las Vegas, NV
Crown Plaza Concert Series - Melbourne, FL
Powel Crosley Estate - Bradenton, FL
Kirkman Park - Orlando, FL
Jazz in the Park - Lehigh, FL
Pismo Preserve Jazz Festival - Pismo Beach, CA

“Nils #1 hit **“Pacific Coast Highway”** was named by Broadcast Data Systems (BDS) as the most heavily played track in the smooth jazz format over the past decade and a half with nearly 30,000 spins. Nils kept the momentum going with subsequent BAJA/TSR releases Ready To Play (2007) and Up Close And Personal (2009), which scored three popular airplay singles—all of which led to his nomination for “Best Guitarist” at the American Smooth Jazz Awards, in a category that included George Benson, Nick Colionne and the late Jeff Golub. Nils’ other releases on the label include What The Funk? (2010) and City Groove (2012). “Let’s Bounce,” the first single from City Groove, hit #2 on the Billboard Contemporary Jazz chart and stayed on the list for an incredible 26 weeks; the follow-up single “Jump Start” was #1 for seven weeks and stayed on the chart for 33 weeks.

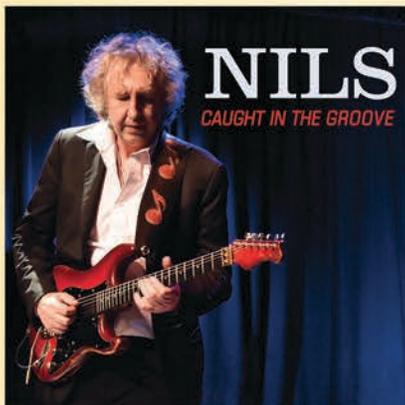


Jazz Gems: The Best of Nils could easily be called **“The Best of Contemporary Jazz from 2005-2014”** for the impact these tracks have had on the smooth jazz radio format. Each song hit the top 20 chart.

Then Nils followed his Best of album with another “Best of Nils album” said Sandy Shore from Smoothjazz.com about his next CD Alley Cat.



“The extraordinary density of creative power also in the instrumental realization makes Nils to one of the most outstanding guitarists who are acting in this century”. His current release “Caught in the Groove” is perhaps his most refined work as of yet.



Caught in the Groove (2020)

Christmas Everyday (2018)

Play (2018)

Alley Cat (2015)

Jazz Gems (2014)

City Groove (2012)

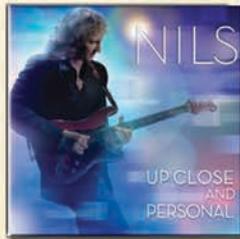
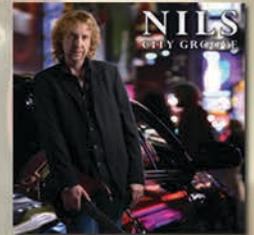
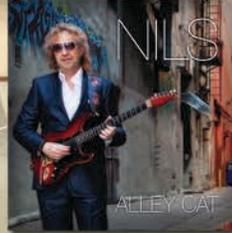
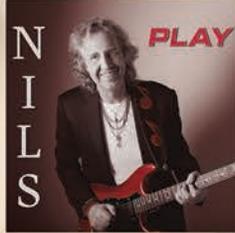
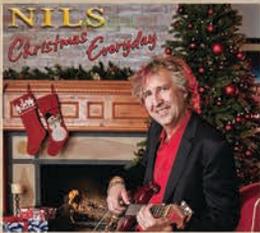
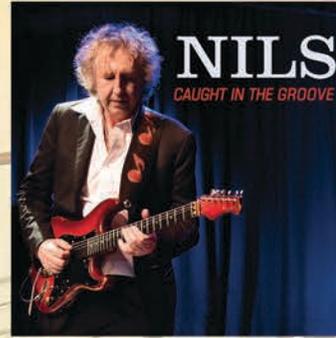
What The Funk? (2010)

Up Close & Personal (2009)

Ready To Play (2007)

Pacific Coast Highway (2005)

Blue Planet (1998)



REVIEWS

Since breaking through with “Pacific Coast Highway” in 2005, Nils has been an urban jazz hit-maker, with his songs lingering in the top of the charts seemingly forever because they are all so picture perfect, melodic, infectious and grooving. Beyond the pop/R&B/jazz appeal and his songwriting skills, Nils is an exciting player whose recordings achieve the rare feat of capturing the excitement he generates on stage. Jazz Gems: The Best of Nils could easily be titled “The Best of Contemporary Jazz” and it’s pure joy and exhilaration reliving these masterfully composed and produced hits.” - *Jonathan Widran*

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MUSIC VIDEOS



Pacific Coast Highway



Straight Down The Line



Cat Nap

LIVE CONCERT VIDEOS



WSJT's Smooth Jazz Fest



CD release Concert 2018



Guitar G-Force