

Originally from Chicago, George Cotsirilos has been a member of the San Francisco Bay Area jazz community for many years and has performed with a wide variety of artists, from San Francisco jazz fixtures like Eddie Marshall, Mel Martin, and Mark Levine to internationally recognized singer Etta James, saxophonist Pharaoh Sanders, and the jazz/soul vocal group, The Whispers. His latest quartet recording of original jazz compositions, *Refuge*, on OA2/Origin Records received excellent notices, including selection by *Downbeat* as an *Editors' Pick* and as one of the best albums of 2022 (see Reviews page). *Refuge* also spent 9 weeks in the top 50 on the *JazzWeek* radio charts. The quartet's prior CD, *Mostly In Blue* received excellent notices as well, and was named by *Downbeat* as one of the best recordings of 2018. Cotsirilos's prior trio and solo recordings have been similarly well-received. His trio CD, *Variations* was chosen by erstwhile *Washington Post* jazz critic and *Jazztimes* editor, Royal Stokes, as one of the most notable jazz instrumental CD's of 2013, while its immediate predecessor, *Past Present* received wide acclaim, including praise from the *San Francisco Chronicle* for its display of "sublimely fluid jazz guitar skills" and its presentation of "about as tight a jazz trio as you'll ever be lucky enough to hear." *All About Jazz* characterized Cotsirilos's solo CD, *Silenciosa*, a compilation of jazz tunes performed on solo classical guitar, as "a superb solo guitar recital." Prior to those releases, in addition to working as an accompanist, Cotsirilos was co-leader of the San Francisco Nighthawks, which included legendary drummer Eddie Marshall, Bobby McFerrin pianist Paul Nagel, as well as former Cal Tjader bassist Robb Fisher, and which recorded for Monarch Records. An earlier quartet recording including Marshall, Nagel and Fisher was released in 2011 by Jazz School Records as part of the Bay Area Jazz Archive Series. Cotsirilos graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, studied jazz with esteemed musician/educator Warren Nunes, and studied classical guitar privately through the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

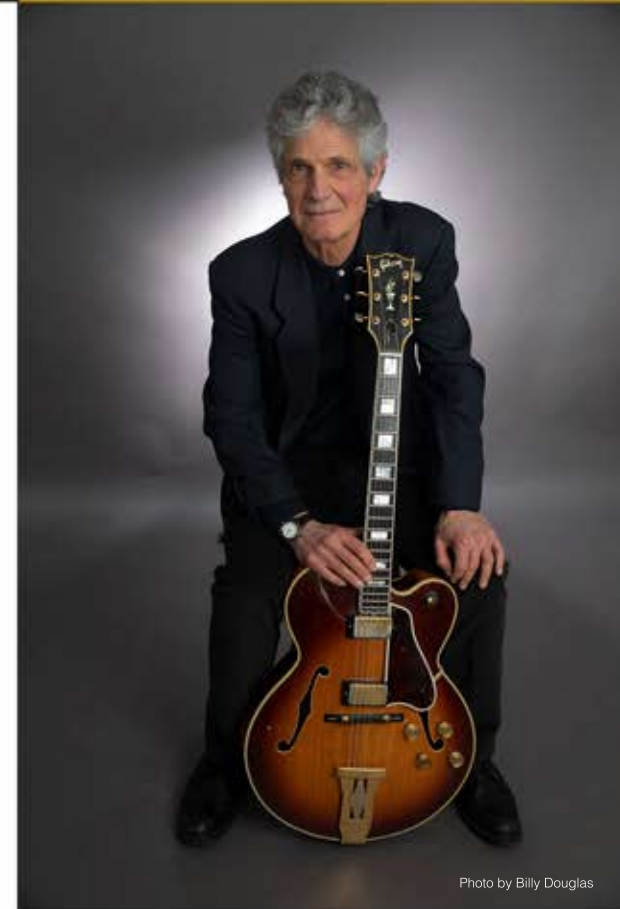


Photo by Billy Douglas

*"[S]uperb... Refuge features George Cotsirilos in his prime in terms of his writing, technique and playing in a variety of hybrid styles... while all of his songs are ferociously smart and feature his singular sound, they are warm, thoughtful and inviting expressions. As the music demonstrates, this is a dream quartet that listens to each other."*

-Marc Myers, *Jazzwax*

*"One of today's finest jazz guitarists and composers, Cotsirilos has an unerring sense of swing and melody. His solos, while displaying accuracy and technique, are filled with soul."*

-John Heidt, *Vintage Guitar Magazine*

*"George Cotsirilos' meticulous and tasteful guitar work is marked by remarkably subtle shifts in accents, and minute changes in expression and dynamics. He displays an impeccable sense of timing especially in revealing the hidden rhythms of complex melodies. His approach to harmony is whimsical, but patently beautiful at all times."*

- Raul D'Gama Rose, *All About Jazz*



REFUGE



MOSTLY IN BLUE



VARIATIONS



SEEMS TO BE



PAST PRESENT



ON THE REBOB



SILENCIOSA



NIGHTHAWKS