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## LEGENDARY VIOLIST JIMBO ROSS RETURNS TO HIS JAZZ ROOTS WITH **JAZZ PASSION & SATIN LATIN**

Coming August 23, 2024 on Bodacious Records

At a concert during the mid-1970s, Don Ellis introduced JIMBO ROSS as “*the only jazz violist in captivity.*” Nearly a half-century later, there aren't many jazz musicians who have taken up the viola, which is both the “big brother to the violin,” and the middle voice in both string quartets and orchestral string sections. While violists usually play the inner harmonies when grouped with other instruments, they are sometimes the most passionate believers in the power of music. Ross credits those repetitive orchestra parts for giving him a deep appreciation for functional harmony.

Many great composers, including Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Hindemith played the viola and wrote music for other violists. Some violists took their passion for music into their professional lives including legendary producer John Hammond and music critic Jeff Bradley. And a few brave souls decided to become jazz musicians, including Lois Martin, Mat Maneri, and Leroy Jenkins. But even adding in those violinists who occasionally doubled on viola, Ross had a corner on the market as one of the only working jazz violists in Los Angeles.

Over the years, Ross has built an impressive list of credits, working with a vast group of performers including Don Ellis, Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughan, Barbra Streisand, Bob Dylan, The Band, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Horn, Tony Bennett, Stevie Wonder, The (Dixie) Chicks, Chick Corea, Coolio, Marty Paich, David Foster and many others. One of his earliest bands was a Django Reinhardt-styled gypsy jazz group, with Ross playing solos in the style of violinist Stephane Grappelli on viola. After his year-long tenure with the Don Ellis orchestra, during which he performed on the group's final two albums, *Music from Other Galaxies and Planets* and *Live at Montreux*, Ross co-led a group which was the first house band for the legendary L.A. jazz club, Vine Street Bar & Grill.

Ross' new album, **JAZZ PASSION & SATIN LATIN**, hearkens back to his jazz roots with an accessible playlist of Great American Standards, jazz classics, and original compositions. Sharing the front line is guitarist **JOE GAETA**, pianist **STUART ELSTER**, bassist **PETER MARSHALL**, and drummer **RON WAGNER**. After deciding the tracks and then performing the arrangements live, the band entered the Sonic Boom Room studio and recorded the tracks together (with minimal overdubbing and no track-stacking) over a four-day period. Ross plays a modified copy of a classic viola, reproduced on a 3-D printer, and dually upgraded with a 5th string to extend the upper range of the instrument, and an electronic pickup to allow it to be heard alongside the other instruments.