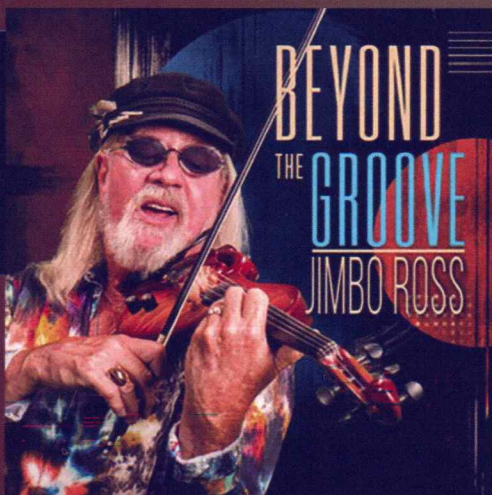




JIMBO ROSS BEYOND THE GROOVE

Fiery Arrangements of Classics by
Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Horace Silver,
Bill Evans, and More

Available August 21, 2026 on Bodacious Records

More than fifty years after jazz trumpeter Don Ellis famously introduced **JIMBO ROSS** as "the only jazz violist in captivity," the singular string player continues to explore and expand the possibilities of his instrument. With **BEYOND THE GROOVE**, his third jazz recording since 2024 and latest chapter in a career that has included collaborations with Chick Corea, Stevie Wonder, the Dixie Chicks, Coolio and others, Ross combines a lifelong fascination with the jazz canon, an extraordinary five-string electric instrument and a quintet whose members have developed an almost telepathic musical rapport.

The distinctive sound of the album begins with Ross' instrument itself. His current five-string electric viola was custom-built by Ojai-based luthier Brandon McDougall, founder of Liquid Violins, whose background includes digital design for the entertainment industry. By adding an E string to the traditional viola, McDougall's instrument gives Ross access to the violin's upper register while retaining the viola's rich middle and lower tonal character. Ross first acquired the instrument in 2019 and says its design allows him to move around the fingerboard with unusual ease while retaining the organic resonance he loves about traditional string instruments.

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ONLINE

RADIO PROMOTION

The Tracking Station — Michael J. Hurzon

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BEYOND THE GROOVE

1. GROVIN' HIGH 6:38
2. IN WALKED BUD 4:46
3. A NIGHT IN TUNISIA 7:04
4. PERI'S SCOPE 6:14
5. AFTERNOON IN PARIS 4:23
6. NICA'S DREAM 7:53
7. JUICY LUCY 4:28
8. BA-LUE BOLIVAR BA-LUES ARE 4:51
9. WHISPER NOT 4:47
10. I MEAN YOU 5:15
11. GLORIA'S STEP 5:55
12. SOLAR 5:43
13. NUTVILLE 5:18

THE BAND

JIMBO ROSS 5 string electric viola/violin

JOE GAETA guitar

STUART ELSTER piano

PETER MARSHALL upright bass

RON WAGNER drums



PUBLICITY

Mouthpiece Music — Holly Cooper

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Their collective spirit of discovery is evident immediately on Dizzy Gillespie's classic "Groovin' High," where a snappy viola motif and piano riff engage in a witty call-and-response before Ross launches into a wildly swinging melodic romp. His high-register lines dart above plucky bass and drums, while Gaeta's guitar and Elster's piano extend the conversation through spirited improvisations. Thelonious Monk's "In Walked Bud," written in honor of Bud Powell, follows with booming drums, percussive viola and a funky, increasingly propulsive rhythm before guitar, piano, bass and viola trade brief ideas in an irresistible musical relay. Ross makes particularly dramatic use of his instrument's range on "A Night in Tunisia," moving from low, percussive viola phrases to soaring upper-register passages as the arrangement shifts between rumbling funk and a fast-moving jazz flow. The musicians build the momentum, with fiery guitar and rambunctious piano helping transform the Gillespie standard into one of the album's most explosive performances.

The two Bill Evans selections reveal another side of Ross' imagination. "Peri's Scope" begins as a slower, lyrical, gently flowing meditation, with graceful viola above cymbal accents and understated guitar harmony before Elster's piano gathers speed and sparkle. "Gloria's Step," written by Evans' legendary bassist Scott LaFaro, brings a moodier, almost waltz-like elegance, with tender viola phrases, wandering piano and a beautifully atmospheric guitar passage. "Afternoon in Paris," John Lewis' 1949 standard, strolls easily before opening into faster viola lines, energetic piano and a snazzy guitar solo. Ross discovered Pannonica "Nica" de Koenigswarter -- the inspiration for Horace Silver's "Nica's Dream" -- while researching the composition. The wealthy Rothschild heiress became one of bebop's most devoted patrons, supporting musicians financially, helping them obtain instruments and even purchasing a piano for Monk. Famously arriving at gigs in a Rolls-Royce and mink coat, she became a legendary caretaker and champion of jazz artists during difficult periods. Ross dedicates the album to her, bringing Silver's tribute to life through exotic percussion, Latin-inflected pulse, dancing high-register viola, fiery guitar and a sparkling piano finale.

Other highlights continue the colorful scavenger hunt. Silver's "Juicy Lucy" struts through a cool mid-tempo strut before accelerating into intricate viola and guitar interplay. Monk's "Ba-Lue Bolivar Ba-Lues-Are" moves from percussive motifs into a bluesy rolling feel, culminating in one of the album's standout guitar solos. Benny Golson's "Whisper Not" becomes a quicksilver showcase for Ross' virtuosic upper register, while Monk's "I Mean You" contrasts haunting low piano and bass with Ross' bright, witty viola motif before exploding into quick paced rhythmic charge. Miles Davis' "Solar" is another high-octane cooker, and Silver's "Nutville" closes the program with shifting tempos, Latin-jazz energy and dazzling instrumental exchanges.

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BEYOND THE GROOVE will be available digitally on selected platforms on August 21, 2026.

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JIMBO ROSS AND HIS FIVE-STRING VIOLA TAKE ON THE JAZZ CANON'S HIDDEN GEMS

BEYOND THE GROOVE

**The Third Album by Ross and His Longtime Ensemble Feature Fiery Arrangements of Classics by
Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Horace Silver, Bill Evans, and More**

More than fifty years after jazz trumpeter Don Ellis famously introduced **JIMBO ROSS** as “the only jazz violist in captivity,” the singular string player continues to explore and expand the possibilities of his instrument. With **BEYOND THE GROOVE**, his third jazz recording since 2024 and latest chapter in a career that has included collaborations with Chick Corea, Stevie Wonder, the Dixie Chicks, Coolio and others, Ross combines a lifelong fascination with the jazz canon, an extraordinary five-string electric instrument and a quintet whose members have developed an almost telepathic musical rapport.

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Where Ross’ previous two albums *So Do It* and *Jazz Passion & Satin Latin*, explored a mixture of standards, hidden gems and original material, *Beyond the Groove* dives wholeheartedly into classic compositions by Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Horace Silver, Bill Evans, Benny Golson, Miles Davis and John Lewis. With each, Ross digs beneath the familiar historical jazz repertoire, unearthing pieces that spark his imagination before unleashing his ensemble to create bold, adventurous arrangements.

The ensemble’s chemistry is rooted in years of friendship and shared performing experiences. Ross’ relationship with guitarist **JOE GAETA** dates to the 1970s, and the two rekindled their musical connection after Ross moved to Marina del Rey, eventually spending several years playing together at La Vecchia Cucina in Santa Monica. Those sessions became a creative laboratory where they explored standards, grooves and lesser-known compositions, with Gaeta introducing Ross to more of Wes Montgomery’s catalog and opening the door to other intriguing material that would eventually find its way onto **BEYOND THE GROOVE**. Pianist **STUART ELSTER**, bassist **PETER MARSHALL** and drummer **RON WAGNER** bring similarly deep histories with Ross, having performed with him in various settings; Gaeta, Ross and Wagner played together in the jazz fusion-band Affirmation from the late 70s to the mid-80s.