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**DVD: Charlie Hunter: The Jazz Sessions**

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Hello once again, here we are on yet another step of the journey into the world of jazz, as I continue to review some of the releases from the 39 part Solos: The Jazz Sessions music profiles series. Each instalment in 50 minutes long and gives viewers a chance to get up close and personal with the performer. This time we have another guitarist. But don't worry it's not more of the same - this is 8 string guitar supremo Charlie Hunter.

As you might well know by now, if you've been watching these releases, or just reading these reviews, each episode features complete musical pieces, insightful interviews and behind-the-scenes footage. Designed and recorded for the viewer at home, Solos offers a front row seat for an intimate and unique jazz experience. Shot in stunning HDTV with multiple moving cameras and a medley of elegant, cinematic lighting designs, Solos: the jazz sessions showcases an exciting and dynamic variety of jazz styles - from the blues and boogie-wogie to bebop and beyond.

I've played guitar for over 15 years myself and I've heard of 12 string guitars but never an 8 string guitar. This is clearly something a little different and very interesting. There certainly can't be many 8 string guitarists out there - I simply don't know - but even if there are it's clear that Charlie Hunter must be one of the very best!

Hunter plays custom-made seven and eight-string guitars, on which he is able to simultaneously play basslines, rhythm guitar, and solos, which makes for quite an amazing spectacle. Hunter is able to play lead guitar on the top five strings (tuned ADGBE) and bass guitar (tuned EAD) on the bottom three strings. So many strings, so many frets, it's mind-boggling, no wonder the poor guy grimaces so much when he plays!

Much like the other DVDs that I've reviewed in this series the action is completely focussed on the performer and their performance. Once you've watched it through once it will certainly still make for good background music. There is also an interesting interview with Hunter in which he explains his style and what he is trying to accomplish.

This DVD was shot in the historic Berkeley Church in Toronto, Canada, which is a fantastic backdrop to a wonderful piece of film. Indeed due to the uniqueness of the instrument that Hunter plays plus his musical abilities, this is one of the most interesting Solo Sessions I have come across.

Tracks: 11 Bars for Ghandi, 8 String Guitar Jam, My Heart Belongs to Daddy, Alabama, Oakland, Untitled Ballad, Quality of Life Jam, Lulu's Crawl

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