

The New Acoustic Collective EPK

Band Leader Personal Backgrounder:

Jason Keiser is a professional guitarist based out of the Bay Area and currently resides in San Jose, California. Jason studied jazz at West Valley Community College under the tutelage of Jazz Studies Director Gus Kambeitz and local professional guitarist Rick Vandivier. Jason finished his studies at West Valley College in 2016. In the summer of 2016, Jason won a music scholarship competition award for his bluegrass guitar virtuosity from The Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival in Oak Hill, New York. In the Fall of 2016, Jason transferred to East Tennessee State University to study Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Country Music Studies. Jason studied under professional bluegrass guitarist Wyatt Rice, professional bluegrass mandolinist Adam Steffey as well as under ethnomusicologist and professional mandolinist Dr. Lee Bidgood. In May of 2018, Jason graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Country Music Studies with an academic honor of Cum Laude, and moved back to San Jose California to begin his Masters of Music in Jazz Studies with a jazz music scholarship at San Jose State University. Jason Keiser graduated in May 2020 with his Masters of Music in Jazz Studies, and currently is the band leader, manager, and composer of the professional string and jazz fusion New Acoustic Collective. Jason also teaches for Willow Glen Music School and Jason Keiser Music studio.

Jason continues to perform professionally all over the Bay Area. Please see Mr. Keiser's website for specific venues he has since performed at.

Currently, Jason has one full record released back in 2016 entitled *Conversations with Jason* featuring Knoxville TN native, professional jazz pianist and educator Jason Day as well as Jason Keiser on guitar. This music can be heard on iTunes, Amazon Music, Spotify, and is available for digital download on major streaming companies, and CD Baby for digital download.

Keiser also has released a new arrangement of the Selena classic "Amor Prohibido", which is available on all digital streaming platforms.

Band(s) Backgrounder:

The New Acoustic Collective:

The New Acoustic Collective features many of the top up and coming jazz, bluegrass, and classical musicians in the Bay Area combining a variety of strings to bring a modern and unique sound to the New Acoustic Music canon. The collective includes founder, bandleader and composer Jason Keiser (guitar), and core members Rodrigo Ruiz (arco double bass), Nathaniel Grohmann. The most recent addition as a sideman to The NAC includes professional trumpeter; Jacob Jackman.

Wyatt Rice of the **Tony Rice Unit** mentions "*I couldn't be more proud of how Jason and Company are carrying on the torch of New Acoustic, Dawg, and SpaceGrass music.*"

"As one of the progenitors of 'New Acoustic Music' back in the 1970s I must say that I am overwhelmed by the evolution of the form and its continued excellence. This band 'The New Acoustic Collective' is one of the most innovative to appear so far. These guys totally cook and their composing and arranging skills are awesome.- Richard Greene

David Grisman Quintet member Darol Anger mentions "These young West Coast musicians are carrying the torch high for Acoustic String Music, and I expect great things from them".

David Grisman Quintet member Mike Marshall mentions "These young cats are burning up some New Acoustic Music! Thanks guys."

This special ensemble works to bring all styles of music to bear blending bluegrass/traditional music idioms, jazz, flamenco, classical, and beyond. The collective takes influence from every corner of the music world including the inventors of the New Acoustic Music genre; The David Grisman Quintet and The Tony Rice Unit.

Depending on the venue/gig context, the collective can also break down trio, and duo formations depending on what the client/venue is looking for!

Current Releases & Music Samples:

On Sunday December 27th, 2020 The New Acoustic Collective released their New Acoustic & SpaceGrass Music debut "***Buckwild***" EP, available on all platforms!

["Buckwild" Bandcamp](#)

On Monday September 20th, 2021 The New Acoustic Collective released their full length New Acoustic, SpaceGrass, World Music fusion string band record; "***Art of Acoustics***" on all platforms, and physical CD copies. The album features special guest and fellow member of The Tony Rice Unit, Wyatt Rice. Tony Rice's longtime engineer and manager Bill Wolf wrote the liner notes.

[Liner Notes & Album Credits](#)

["Art of Acoustics" Bandcamp](#)

Music Videos by The New Acoustic Collective

[***"Old Gray Coat" featuring special guest Wyatt Rice***](#)

Performance Calendar

Previous performances include:

Tuesday-Thursday September 28th-30th, 2021- The New Acoustic Collective Official Showcase Artists, Bluegrass Ramble, IBMA, Raleigh NC

Monday, September 20th, 2021- The New Acoustic Collective live at The Grey Eagle, Asheville, NC "Art of Acoustics" Album Release Show

Saturday, August 14th, 2021- The New Acoustic Collective live at Amado's, San Francisco, CA

Saturday, June 26th, 2021- The New Acoustic Collective live at The Back Room, Berkeley, CA

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser, Alonso Sanchez, David Boyden, Rodrigo Ruiz and Nathaniel Grohmann livestream at The Art Boutiki Music Hall, **Saturday March 13th, 2021.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser, Alonso Sanchez, David Boyden, Rodrigo Ruiz and Nathaniel Grohmann livestream at The Art House Gallery & Cultural Center. **Saturday March 6th, 2021.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser, Alonso Sanchez livestream at The Ainsley House & Campbell Museum, **Friday December 4th, 2020.***

*The New Acoustic Collective live at D4 in the Neighborhood, **Saturday October 31st, 2020.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser, Alonso Sanchez, Daniel Williams, and Nathaniel Grohamann The Naglee Park Back Porch Festival. Other acts included the Wally Schnalle Quartet, etc. **Saturday August 29th, 2020.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser and Rodrigo Ruiz live at Testarossa Winery & Vineyards, **Friday March 6th, 2020.***

*San Jose State University Jazz Orchestra featuring Shelea, San Jose Jazz WinterFest, The New Acoustic Collective performed original work "Back in California" as one of the openers that evening. **Sunday February 23rd, 2020.***

*Jason Keiser Masters Jazz Guitar, San Jose State University School of Music & Dance, **Sunday February 9th, 2020.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser and Alonso Sanchez live at Testarossa Winery & Vineyards, **Thursday November 7th, 2019.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser, Alonso Sanchez, and David Boyden. Live at Café Pink House Jazz Club, **Thursday November 15th, 2018.***

*The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason Keiser and Alonso Sanchez live at Testarossa Winery & Vineyards, **Thursday November 8th, 2018.***

Stage Plot: TBD depending on size of band requested

Double Bass playing both arco and pizzicato styles

Cello

Sideman: Trumpet

1 Shure SM58 cardioid mic for announcements, etc.

4 instrumental mics

Option: 4 possible DI boxes (2 double basses, fiddle, cello)

Necessary PA & Monitor mix for string/rhythm section

PA can be brought if the venue/client does not have one/backline in use for the band, as well as microphones, and other equipment.

Photography:







Photograph by: Walter Wagner
Jason Keiser: Guitar (Band leader, founder,



composer)

Photography by: Walter Wagner



Photography by: Leann Pan

Nathaniel Grohmann: Cello



Photography by: Tara Linhardt

Rodrigo Ruiz: Arco & Pizzicato Double Bass



Photography by: Walt Wagner

Side Man, Professional Trumpeter Jacob Jackman



Photography by: Walt Wagner

Press Releases “Art of Acoustics” by The New Acoustic Collective

“Art of Acoustics” Official Review in Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine

The New Acoustic Collective is a young string band based in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. Led by band leader and composer Jason Keiser (guitar), the group includes co-leader Alonso Sanchez (double bass), David Boyden (fiddle), Rodrigo Ruiz (double bass), and Nathaniel Grohmann (cello). The group cites their influences to include David Grisman’s Dawg compositions, Tony Rice’s SpaceGrass, and other new acoustic artists, but they are also able to cover a myriad of styles from jazz, bluegrass, flamenco, traditional string band, to classical.

This talented young group really extends their boundaries of acoustic string band music with selections like “Back In California”, “Key Signator”, “Grapejelly”, “Jazzology”, and “Transcale”. There is also a sort of tribute to Jerry Douglas in “For Flux”, and Wyatt Rice is featured on “Old Grey Coat”. Fans of New Acoustic music will enjoy this new project as the group covers many styles of the genre.

Liner Notes by Bill Wolf “Art of Acoustics”

In 1977 the Acoustic Music Consciousness was expanded several orders of magnitude with the recording and release of the first David Grisman Quintet album. David Grisman (mandolin), Tony Rice (guitar), Darol Anger (fiddle), Bill Amateek (Bass) and Todd Phillips (mandolin) created a new genre, “Dawg” Music (after David’s nickname).

Dawg Music combined traditional and contemporary Jazz, Bluegrass, Folk, Pop, Latin, and Classical into a style that features both compositional structure and improvisation. The DGQ (with some personnel additions and subtractions) finished out the decade with 2 more albums, Hot Dawg and Quintet ’80, firmly establishing Dawg Music.

In late 1978, Tony Rice released the album “Acoustics”, which expanded his contribution to the New Acoustic Music canon. His style was to be called “SpaceGrass” (also the name of his 1970 Dodge Challenger). He went on to form and then tour and record with The Tony Rice Unit (TRU). By 1980 TRU had 2 more credited releases: Manzanita and Mar West. These 3 records had the participation of some of the finest acoustic musicians on the

planet: Sam Bush, Ricky Skaggs, Jerry "Flux" Douglas, Richard Greene and Mike Marshall (as well as Todd and Darol from the original DGQ record). Later in the 1980s the Unit would include at various times John Reischman, Fred Carpenter, Wyatt Rice (Tony's brother), Jimmy Gaudreau, Rickie Simpkins and Ronnie Simpkins. The TRU with Tony, Wyatt, Jimmy, Rickie and Ronnie would perform live many times and released (in 2000) the album "Unit of Measure".

The DGQ and TRU broke the barriers between the most common acoustic musics (bluegrass, folk) and jazz, pop, rock, classical, latin and flamenco, klezmer, gypsy, country and world music. Their influence was/is profound and lasting.

Fast forward to November, 2018. Jason Keiser (guitar), David Boyden (fiddle) and Alonzo Sanchez (double bass) begin playing as The New Acoustic Collective in the San Francisco Bay Area. The irrepressible creative urge in their music reflected an obvious respect for the pioneering sounds created by DGQ and TRU. NAC's first single release (in December, 2020) was E. M. D., a David Grisman composition from Dawg's soundtrack for the Corman film Eat My Dust. David Boyden's opening fiddle solo brings back that fire first heard on the original DGQ album. Later in December The NAC released the EP "Buckwild"; six innovative tracks that leave the listener captivated and wanting more.

With the release of their first full length album, "Art of Acoustics", The NAC delivers nine new recordings. Six are Jason Keiser compositions, one from David Boyden, one from Darol Anger. Also included is the Tony Rice composition "Old Gray Coat", featuring Wyatt Rice on guitar. Jason has studied guitar with Wyatt and considers him a mentor.

The album is a journey in space and time. The first movement of Jason Keiser's "Back in California" (00:00-00:47) untethers us from gravity in preparation for the adventure. The first sensation of acceleration is a clear reference to Dawg's innovation tied by a brief pause to a touch of SpaceGrass, some classical organization and back to Dawg. Latin rhythm and harmony set us up for the first improvisation section. It's the double bass taking the first break. The NAC is perhaps unique in the improvisation opportunities it provides for double bass. DGQ and TRU always had places for their bass players to solo, but The NAC has the double bass as a full member of the

improvisation team. *“Back in California”* boasts both pizzicato and arco bass solos. At 04:23 the guitar continues the Latin feel with obvious Flamenco reference. Jason then solos over a hypnotic rhythm established by the double bass. Cello and arco bass trade through a solo section culminating in a series of unison lines which brings us back to the early Dawg. All this in just the first tune.

“Howies Breakdown” takes us through the early part of our continuum trip with a steady SpaceGrassy bounce. Solos by fiddle, cello, pizz bass, and guitar (with some dexterous octave work) keep the energy high. The occasional G-run can't help but bring a smile.

“Key Signator”, composed by Darol Anger, is a live performance staple of the group. It showcases David Boyden on fiddle. His soulful statement of the melody leads to a solo with some smoothly integrated cross-bow licks. Then Jason treats us to a staccato style solo that starts out with a plucked fiddle quality. This is followed by a pizz bass solo over chugging fiddle backup. Then David restates the melody for the final head, accompanied by some fills from Jason.

Next, *“Bog Mummy Takes the Wheel”*. Whatever Bog Mummy is, it has definitely taken the wheel. With time changes reminiscent of 20th Century Classical and jazz compositions, composer David Boyden subjects us to a kind of musical whiplash that is both exciting and mesmerizing. Time compressing and expanding seamlessly, our journey takes a relativistic turn only to bring us back to familiar territory.

Who better to kick off Tony Rice's *“Old Gray Coat”* than Tony's younger brother, Wyatt? Only Wyatt could bring back his brother's full, rich tone for us to enjoy again (*“Old Gray Coat”* was first released on *“Acoustics”*). This version features solos from Wyatt, David, Jason and Alonso (double bass). Jason's use of alternative scales would get a smile from Tony.

Jason's *“Grapejelly”* accelerates us out of the solar system with some Gypsy Jazz. The song's title is a pun on Grappelli (Stephane), the great 20th Century jazz violinist and founder of the Quintette du Hot Club de France with Django Reinhardt. This tune gives The NAC soloists a chance to demonstrate their dexterity and some nimble cello

work is a pleasant surprise midway through.

“Tranescala” is a relaxing tune moving us out into deep space. Influenced by John Coltrane’s modal period and Artie Traum’s “Fishscale” (recorded on the original DGQ album) this composition from Jason also features a turn-around inspired by tenor saxophonist Joe Henderson. The NAC gives the 5/4 time signature a lilting, transparent feel, vibrating us through consciousness at every turn-around. Infinite possibilities become natural and expected.

“Jazzology” begins with a moment of free-floating weightlessness then cycles through two contrasting sections. First is a syncopated jazzy section over an E pedal. The melody is stated by the pizz double bass which morphs seamlessly into Jason’s guitar. The next section is a classic bluegrass rhythm (with SpaceGrass influence) in the key of G. These contrasting A and B sections present a challenge to the NAC soloists, who handle it effortlessly. Compositionally, Jason cleverly connects the repeated A sections, the A sections to the B sections, and the B back to the A with the same chord series (B, C, B, C, B), bringing continuity to the different styles.

As its title suggests, “For Flux” pays respect to dobro great Jerry Douglas. Jason’s slippery left hand mimics the dobro slide. The composition is influenced by two tunes from Flux: “Cave Bop” and “Pushed Too Far”. The melody is all Jason’s – a relaxing and swaying feel, even during the high intensity ensemble lines. The creative chord structure allows the soloists to work around multiple scales, amplifying the swaying emotional feel.

Like “Buckwild”, “Art of Acoustics” leaves us wanting more. Fortunately, this project – seven new compositions and two classics, performed by some of the finest young acoustic musicians – requires multiple listens to fully appreciate. Enjoy the journey. You can be sure there is a lot more to come from The New Acoustic Collective.

By

Bill Wolf

Professional Engineer

Wolf Productions Inc.

Engineered, recorded and mixed the following classic New Acoustic Music recordings:

“The David Grisman Quintet”; (1977), “Hot Dawg”; (1978), “Quintet ‘80”; (1980) The Tony Rice Unit “Acoustics”; (1978), Tony Rice “Manzanita”; (1979), The Tony Rice Unit “Mar West”; (1980), The Tony Rice Unit “Unit of Measure”; (2000).

Press by Professionals in endorsement for “Art of Acoustics”

“I’ve always dug Wyatt’s playing and his spirit and he doesn’t disappoint on this recording. Great tune and wonderful playing. Congratulations on a beautiful piece artfully executed!”

Matt Eakle

Flutist

David Grisman Quintet 1989–present

“It’s great to see younger musicians coming up playing this style. This kind of music has aspiration and progress built into it. It’s a path that has a heart. Play on, guys!”

Darol Anger

Fiddler

“An adventurous, joyful project, capturing the spirit of the original David Grisman and Tony Rice recordings that were such an epiphany to so many string players. A wonderfully crafted tribute by a stellar ensemble. It’s gratifying to know that the art (and future) of New Acoustic music is in such capable hands!”

Mike Mullins

Mandolinist/Guitarist

Acoustic Disc Recording Artist

“The New Acoustic Collective’s new album 'Art of Acoustics' showcases both their superb musicianship, and their deep understanding of the acoustic jazz genre, known as New Acoustic Music. You’ll find some old favorites, and many new tunes that are sure to become favorites as soon as you hear them! If you like the music of Grisman and Rice, you will definitely like 'Art of Acoustics'. Buy a copy today, and you’ll be glad you did”.

Nate Lee

"I'm very happy to hear The New Acoustic Collective keeping the spirit of creative acoustic string band music alive. I especially like “Jazzology”, with the bass and violin sharing the melody, and then it’s bluegrassy bridge.”

John Reischman

“It was a pleasure to attend college with Jason at East Tennessee State University and it has been great to see him take his music to new levels. The material on the New Acoustic Collective’s recent release ranges from original compositions (“Grapejelly” and “Back in California” stand out to me) and tasteful arrangements of classics, and it is sure to please!”

Max Etling

Professional Bassist

Seth Mulder & Midnight Run

“Recently I had the opportunity to listen to the latest project of the New Acoustic Collective. I was pleased at what I heard. Jason, the founder and leader of the group, has taken a turn to orchestrating the group and delving further into jazz improv with extended solo space for all the players. I’m glad to see and hear this because there are so many inventive young players on the scene today, and they need to grow this music. I don’t believe the traditions of bluegrass will suffer as a result. There is tradition all through this project. I'm sure there was a push back when David Grisman first appeared with Dawg Music. When I was a young player and had opportunities to play with local and regional bluegrass players, I was often treated coolly because of my jazz, classical, and r&b background. I wasn’t the real deal. The folks in the New Music Collective are the real deal, as is the movement to evolve acoustic music... The arrangements on this album are fresh, creative, imaginative, and good, and I highly encourage you to give it a listen!”

[Rusty Holloway](#)

Press Releases “Buckwild” EP by The New Acoustic Collective

Press Release “Buckwild” Album Review Uncut Grass

Press Release “Buckwild” Album Review Minor 7th

Promo Endorsement for The New Acoustic Collective “Buckwild” EP:

Liner Notes by Wyatt Rice:

It was the year 1976, and I was 11 years old, and got to witness something that was a musical life changing event for me. I got to see The David Grisman Quintet rehearse in Grisman's home for their upcoming album that was released the following year, 1977. Seeing this musical event made me catch what I like to call the “spacegrass and dawg music bug”.

Fast forward many years later, I met Jason Keiser when I taught him guitar in the Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Country Music Studies program at ETSU years ago. Jason came to me to learn these innovative styles of acoustic music because he had also caught the “spacegrass and dawg music bug”.

Regarding the tunes on “Buckwild”, the record starts with “Dave's Place”. Dave's Place was a tune I wrote many years ago that was my first attempt to write a Dawg, SpaceGrass type of tune with a bluegrass twist. The A section or head was the main melody I was going for, but I knew it needed a B part, so that's what I call the Bluegrass section. It was just that way, giving the soloist the freedom to improvise the B section. In The New Acoustic Collective's rendition there is a very nice intro that's longer, and upbeat. I really like how the cello adds a special flavor to it. Jason does a nice melody version up front, and a superb solo after the violin. Strong, and very jazzy. The violin solo by David Boyden is fantastic as well, then a great bass solo by Alonso Sanchez. Wow! A great performance The New Acoustic Collective featuring Jason and Company. A more jazzier version than mine minus the banjo with cello added to the mix.

The New Acoustic Collective pay a wonderful tribute to the original David Grisman Quintet in their version of “E.M.D.”. Their version is great and I love how it sounds, it is so energetic and upbeat!

“Val's for Dawg”, is an original composition of Jason's that I am very proud of. It has Dawg written all over it and I thoroughly enjoyed the collective's playing and improvisation throughout this new dawg music tune.

Overall, the music you hear The New Acoustic Collective play on their debut EP “Buckwild” holds and carries on the legacy of New Acoustic, Dawg, and spacegrass music to another generation of listeners, and musicians

interested in mastering these innovative improvisational styles of music. I couldn't be more proud of how Jason and Company are carrying on the torch of dawg, and spacegrass music and highly recommend you check out "Buckwild", by The New Acoustic Collective.

Wyatt Rice

Legendary bluegrass guitarist, The Tony Rice Unit, Rice Recording,
ETSU Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Country Music Studies

"As one of the progenitors of 'New Acoustic Music' back in the 1970s I must say that I am overwhelmed by the evolution of the form and its continued excellence. This band 'The New Acoustic Collective' is one of the most innovative to appear so far. Their basic instrumentation is wild: guitar, cello, fiddle, 2 double basses, drums & flugelhorn. The chop is generously ladled throughout, as its inventor I couldn't be more proud. These guys totally cook and their composing and arranging skills are awesome. I am honored that they asked me to contribute these few words, you've got to check them out!"

Richard Greene

"These young West Coast musicians are carrying the torch high for Acoustic String Music, and I expect great things from them".

Darol Anger

fiddler, composer, producer and educator founding member of The David
Grisman Quintet, 1977-1985

"These young cats are burning up some New Acoustic Music! Thanks guys."

Mike Marshall

Grammy Nominated Professional Mandolinist David Grisman Quintet alum
1978-1990

"E.M.D." Single Release Press:

E.M.D. Music Video Review by Bluegrass Today, John Lawless:

<https://bluegrasstoday.com/e-m-d-video-from-the-new-acoustic-collective/>

Promo Quote Endorsement:

"I love your version, it's so good, dynamic and very well played!!!"

Enrique Coria

Professional Guitarist David Grisman Quintet alum 1995-2006

"Just recently I had the pleasure of hearing the New Acoustic Collective playing a rendition of a David Grisman composition, "E.M.D." It was terrific. I first heard the song played by Dave, some years back, assisted by Tony Rice, Mark O'Connor, and Rob Wasserman. I was knocked out at what I heard, and amazed at the quality of improv and ensemble! Jason, Alonso, David, and Nathaniel capture the spirit of "E.M.D." with amazing energy and musical ability. The solos are wonderful and the support exhibited by the group is admirable! This group does much to bring beautiful and exciting music to fans of all styles. As a bonus I heard and highly recommend Jason's rendition of "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year". Keep an eye and an ear on this group!"

Rusty Holloway

Rusty's Bass Garage

The New Acoustic Collective Contact & Platforms

Information: Social media:

Website: <https://www.jasonkeisermusic.com/the-new-acoustic-collective.html>

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/newacousticcollective>

Instagram: @newacousticcollective

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-New-Acoustic-Collective-114112760411024>

All About Jazz: <https://musicians.allaboutjazz.com/thenewacousticcollective>

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