RONNIE ROSE

**How long have you been playing?**

I have been playing for over 50 years. I started taking lessons from a teacher named Lefty Burns in Atlanta. I then went to work at age 16 playing all over the Atlanta area and working and teaching at Ken Stanton Music in Marietta. I was lucky to have great support from people like Sam Caldwell and Jimmy Childress who were well-known back in the 50's and 60's. I reside in Largo, Florida where I have played all over the Tampa Bay area.

**What was the first concert you ever went to?**

1960's. Atlanta, GA. Saw Ramsey Lewis, Nina Simone, Earl Father Hines. Wes Montgomery was supposed to be there but had just passed away.

**What gear do you use?**

I use my Benedetto Bravo on gigs, but also have in reserve a 1953 Gibson ES125 and a 75+ year old Bruno parlor guitar.

**Who was your biggest musical influence growing up?**

Wes Montgomery. Wanted to quit playing rock 'n' roll and get into jazz.

**If you could jam with anyone, who would it be?**

When I was first starting out, I traveled to New York and spent time with my godfather, Johnny Bennett, brother of Tony Bennett. Recently, I had the opportunity to jam with Howard Alden down in Savannah. Spent quality time taking a lesson from Pat Martino when he head-lined the 2011 Savannah Jazz Festival. Would love to jam with Howard Paul and Bucky Pizzarelli. Was fortunate to see those two play their 7-string Benedettos at The Jazz Corner on Hilton Head Island. No matter how experienced a player you are, you can never stop learning. My motto is "Practice, practice, and more practice."