

Grammy Nominee

Michael Manring



solo bass guitar

"...the hottest bassist today." -The Philadelphia Inquirer

"...must be heard to be believed." -Salt Lake Tribune

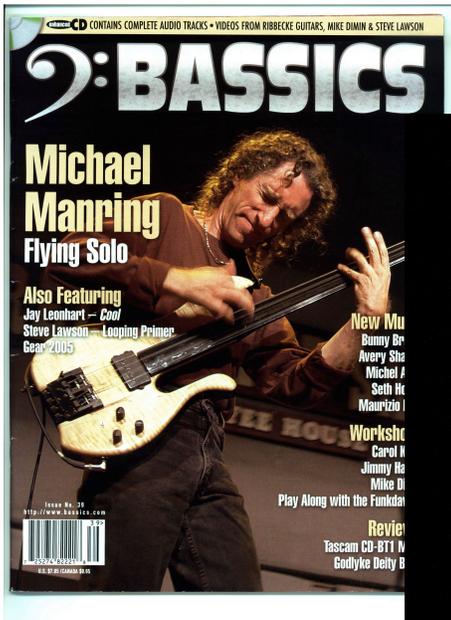
Michael Manring

Hailed by many as the world's leading solo bassist, Michael Manring has been pushing back the boundaries of what's possible on the bass guitar for over two decades. While his technical skill and innovations always make an impression, it is his ability to communicate on a profound emotional level that most touches listeners. As editor Tom Darter wrote in *Keyboard* magazine after seeing one of Michael's solo concerts, "Forget his astounding technique and musicality; forget his absolute command of his instruments; forget how seamlessly the musical ideas and the performance of them were wedded together...The enlightenment came most from feeling (seeing, hearing) the joy Michael felt to be playing...his brand of transcendental chops and musical understanding...was all in the service of the final outcome, the joy of making music."

Building on the conceptions of his teacher, the late bass legend Jaco Pastorius, Michael has developed a new approach to the instrument that includes unorthodox tunings, techniques and methodologies. He has honed his skills on hundreds of recordings as a session musician and thousands of concerts throughout the world in venues including Carnegie Hall in NY, Yamaha Hall in Tokyo and Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. Michael has worked with a surprisingly diverse collection of musicians from New Age keyboardist Suzanne Ciani to avant-improv guitar innovator Henry Kaiser to celebrated folk troubadour John Gorka to experimental post-metal rockers Tim Alexander (Primus) and Alex Skolnick (Testament) to electro-pop pioneer Thomas Dolby. His long-term collaboration and close friendship with the late acoustic guitar genius Michael Hedges led to a lengthy stint as house bassist for Windham Hill Records; a label for whom he also worked as a solo artist, releasing four recordings under his own name: Unusual Weather (1986), Toward the Center of the Night (1989), Drastic Measures (1991) and Thonk (1994). These, along with his 1998 release The Book of Flame on the Alchemy record label earned him an international reputation as "a master of the fretless bass without rival." (*Guitar Club Magazine*, Italy). He has garnered two gold records, Grammy and Bammie nominations, a Berklee School of Music Distinguished Alumni Award, two Just Plain Folks Awards and numerous Bass Player Magazine Reader's Poll awards including 1994 Bassist of the Year. He was also the subject of a PBS TV documentary, The Artist's Profile: Michael Manring.

In his solo concerts Michael weaves together his musical influences into a tapestry rich with expression, virtuosity, humor and meaning. As one writer put it, "Michael Manring can do more with a bass than even the most creative individual could imagine" (L. Pierce Carson, Napa Valley Register). His most recent release Soliloquy, performed entirely solo without overdubs, is the best recorded example yet of that depth and diversity. Using a variety of bass guitars and the far-reaching, innovative approaches he is renowned for, with Enhanced CD content including Michael's extensive 24-page liner notes detailing the composing and recording process, photos and live performance videos, Soliloquy takes the listener on a unique musical journey. We hope you'll follow the advice of France's Musicien magazine: "Do not miss your next opportunity to discover the bassist with the most fresh and inventive playing today."

"Every instrument has its technical innovators, and its pioneers who explore the emotional and expressive potential. Very rarely are the two combined in the same person – John Coltrane did it for the tenor sax, Keith Jarrett for the piano and Michael Manring for the bass guitar." -Steve Lawson, Bass Guitar Magazine (UK)



"The world's greatest bass player. Michael Manring's virtuosity has no equal." -Ricardo Zárate, www.bossa.mx



Photo: Philippe Lissart

"Extended Virtuosity, dizzying beauty" -La Jornada (Mexico City)

"...probably the best *%#@ I have ever heard anyone do on bass. Genius" -Anthony Crawford (bassist for Justin Timberlake, Peabo Bryson, Shalamar, Erykah Badu, Allan Holdsworth)



"the best electric bass player in the world" Henry Kaiser, Guitar Player Magazine interview

"nothing short of mind blowing." -Paul Liberatore, Marin Independent Journal

"Manring's monstrous facility and ingenuity is undeniably stunning" - Bill Milkowski, Jazz Times

"His execution bypassed words and left only unbound wonder. My final observation was one simple question: 'How in the hell did he just do that?'" -Cory Frye, Corvallis Gazette-Times



Photo: Bryan Aaker

"...in my view, the greatest bass soloist anywhere is Michael Manring." Jeff Berlin, bassist for Yes, Allan Holdsworth, KD Lang

"In my forty years, I have not met a better musician than Michael." -Jim Stinnett, Professor of Contemporary Writing and Production, Berklee College of Music

"...one of the most impressive musicians of all time..." -Nilton Wood, Cover Baixo magazine (Brazil)

" . . . b e y o n d comprehension... Michael Manring appears on stage not as much as an artist but rather as a spiritualist who contemplates music while his instrument is a vehicle intermediating his mind to the audience." -Mari Peterson, Õhtuleht (Estonia)

"Michael Manring is an unparalleled technical virtuoso on bass... remarkable musical ideas and incisive tone." -Gary Joyner, Guitar Teacher Magazine



Photo: Philippe Lissart

"... the premier voice on the bass. " -Robert Taylor, All Music Guide



"Michael Manring is the best bassist playing today." -Intercity Magazine (Italy)

"...undoubtedly the most astonishing player you'll ever see... sitting there in person is a life altering experience." -Ed Friedland, www.musicplayer.com



"...a virtuoso electric bassist who's almost single-handedly re-defined the outer limits of the instrument." - David Plotnikoff San Jose Mercury News

"So what exactly is it that Manring does with a bass guitar? Everything." -Marsh McCall, BAM magazine



Photo: Michelangelo Brandimarte

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