

## Biography:

Sam Kirmayer, jazz guitarist, composer and native Montrealer, is a young musician unapologetically in love with the hard bop idiom. He subscribes to the school established by masters like Wes Montgomery and Grant Green, eschewing effects in favour of a clear, direct tone. Sam has performed with some of Canada's finest musicians including André White, Dave Turner, Donny Kennedy, Mike Rud, Carlos Jiménez, Andres Vial and Kevin Dean, who says "Sam is one of a group of young people proving once again that creativity and individual artistic expression have little or nothing to do with style. It is the level of excellence, honesty and power of emotion that determines artistic relevance".

Sam recently recorded his first full length album; Opening Statement, a mixed set of originals and standards. A quartet date, the record features New York based pianist Sean Fyfe and Montreal stalwarts bassist Mike De Masi and drummer Dave Laing. Opening Statement was recorded over two days in early September 2016 and is set for release on local startup jazz label Chromatic Audio in the spring of 2017. Sam plans to take the band on a tour of Quebec and Ontario to coincide with the release of the record.

Sam completed an Undergraduate degree in Jazz Performance at McGill University in 2016 with Outstanding Achievement and Dean's Honour List standings. He has also been the recipient of several awards and scholarships including the Oliver Jones Jazz Scholarship from Vanier College, the David Moyse Guitar Scholarship from McGill and an Artist Development Grant from FACTOR. He has been teaching guitar privately since 2011 and has given workshops at Vanier College and CÉGEP Vincent-d'Indy. He is also very active in the Montreal jazz scene, with several weekly performances including hosting a weekly jam session in Saint-Henri and frequent appearances as both a leader and sideman at all the city's major jazz clubs.

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