

Charlie Apicella: Biography

www.IronCity.nyc

Charlie Apicella was voted onto the 84th and 86th **DownBeat Readers Poll** for Guitar.

He studied composition and improvisation with musical titans **Yusef Lateef** and **Pat Martino** and was trained as a historian by **Archie Shepp** and **Dr. Billy Taylor**. As a young guitarist he met his idol **BB King**, who offered him advice and shared some stories.

He has performed concerts and recorded with jazz legends **Dave Holland**, **Sonny Fortune**, **John Blake, Jr.**, and **Avery Sharpe** as well as contemporary masters **Joe Magnarelli**, **Vic Juris**, **Dave Stryker**, **Don Braden**, and **Jon Herington** of **Steely Dan**.

In 2022 he formed **The Griots Speak** with bassist **William Parker**, saxophonist **Daniel Carter**, and percussionist **Juma Sultan** who is known for his work with Jimi Hendrix.

* * *

Charlie Apicella is the founder and Director of **Blues Alive: the living tradition of the blues**

He is an **Eastman Guitars** Featured Artist

a **Guild Guitars** Sponsored Artist and a

ZT Amplifiers Official Artist.

* * *

"A deeply melodic guitarist along the lines of **Grant Green**. Apicella faithfully has sought to channel an era of American music when hard-bop and r&b reigned...But the guitarist still manages to keep things fresh." MATTHEW KASSEL, **DownBeat**

"As a player, Apicella immediately brings to mind **Grant Green**. He's funky, he's bluesy, and he's not afraid to get dirty at times." JOHN HEIDT, **Vintage Guitar Magazine**

"Apicella's playing shines...[he] is aware of the straight-ahead tradition, showcasing his **Wes Montgomery** influence...Apicella's guitar sound is bright and clean, and easily cuts through the huge sound of the organ." TIM FISCHER, **Just Jazz Guitar Magazine**

"I think you will find that "SPARKS" will light the artistic fires of the soul and intellect."
Heartfully, **Yusef Lateef**