



Joseph Carter III

East Northport Native Has Big Selling Album

By Lauren Wennerod

East Northport native Joseph Carter III's first commercial venture is a success. His new CD, "Straight Ahead Backwards," has already sold out three times.

Mr. Carter, who attended Northport High School and graduated from John Glenn High School in 1980, began playing the guitar at the age of 16. He performed with blues/sax player King Charles at clubs around Long Island before discovering his true musical love - jazz. "It's just a more challenging music," he said. "It's as high of an art form as you can go on the guitar."

Before forming his current group, Mr. Carter recorded an album with Bill Doggett, the composer/performer of "Honky Tonk," the only number one jazz hit ever which was written by its performer, and with Benny Waters, who at 95 is the oldest jazz musician alive. The album also included his current group member Walter Perkins, a drummer who has performed with Billie Holiday and other well known musicians. Mr. Doggett died shortly after the album was recorded and it was never released, although Mr. Carter says it may be in the future. For the past year-and-a-half, he has performed with Huntington resident Peter Kaufman on the trumpet, Stu Waters on the keyboardist and Mr. Perkins. "We love playing together. We have a beautiful chemistry," he says of the group.

Released by Velvet Swan Records, a small, independent record company, "Straight Ahead Backwards" features seven original compositions. A left-handed guitarist who performs his music on a custom lefty D'Aquisto guitar, Mr.

Carter describes the sound as "something very unique. It doesn't sound like anyone else." The blend of jazz, bee-bop and modern 20th century music, was most influenced by his teacher Raul Pleskow, a famous twentieth century composer, and musicians Joe Pass and Jim Hall.

Although he currently lives in Manhattan, Mr. Carter says he would like to return to the Northport-East Northport area to perform locally. He earned his Masters degree in teaching from Long Island University, and teaches music one day a week at PS 102 in Manhattan. He hopes to share his love of music with students locally, and visit his former high schools some day to conduct a music program. He also hopes to perform at Northport Village's concerts in the park this summer, and at Heckscher Park in Huntington.

"Straight Ahead Backwards" has not yet been featured on the radio. After receiving a four star review from Jazz Guitar, a national publication, and with another review scheduled by the national publication Twentieth Century Guitar, Mr. Carter is concentrating on the local scene before going after more widespread air play. The CD, available for \$9.99 at Tower Records and \$11.99 at Borders Books and Music, has sold out three times at Tower Records in Huntington and twice at Borders Books and Music in Commack. CDs and cassettes are also available direct from Velvet Swan Music which can be called at (212) 246-3739.

The group can be seen on Fridays at The Grill Room at 160 Adams Avenue, Hauppauge. Mr. Carter also performs there on Wednesday evenings, with other musicians.