

## Medium Bio

### NICK COLIONNE

Continuing to capture his creative mindset, vision and the ever-evolving artistry of his music with inspiring, thought provoking album titles, Nick Colionne calls his latest album *Finger Painting* for the simple reason that he's always visualized his Epiphone ES 175 premium guitar as a musical paintbrush painting all the colorful notes he plays.

The vibrant cover painting (originally commissioned by Bettie Grace Miner) features Nick in a bright red shirt and his white Stacy Adams hat surrounded by an impressionistic swirl of multi-hued blues, yellow streaks and a splash of orange. The wild array of colors perfectly reflects the cool multitude of moods, energies and flow that Nick creates over the course of the eleven tracks with longtime collaborators and producers Chris "Big Dog" Davis, James Lloyd (from Pieces of a Dream) and John Blasucci.

While most urban jazz fans started their musical love affair with the ultra-stylish (thanks to those hip Stacy Adams suits and hats) Nick early in the 2000s, folks in "The Big Windy" had been grooving with him years before via his early indie albums, starting with *It's My Turn* in 1994. Kicking off his rise to urban jazz superstardom with his breakthrough album *Just Come On In* (2003) he has since mastered the art of *Keepin' It Cool* (2006), transcended musical boundaries to explore realms where there are *No Limits* (2008), fired up his thousands of worldwide fans with *Feel the Heat* (2011), dug deep into his musical soul to share some of his deepest jazz and R&B *Influences* (2014) and made history with his 2016 collection *The Journey* by becoming the only artist in the history of the format to score five consecutive #1 singles on the Billboard Smooth Jazz National Airplay and Smooth Jazz Songs charts from a single album. Nick followed up in 2018 with *Just Being Me*.

Nick has received numerous honors throughout his multi-faceted career, including the Wayman Tisdale Humanitarian Award at the 2010 National Smooth Jazz Awards for his ongoing commitment to mentoring children and his work in the community and nationally in support of breast cancer causes. The recipient of the 1996 Malcom X College Alumnus of the Year Award (he earned his degree there in music), Colionne has devoted much of his spare time over the past 20 years to mentoring children at St. Laurence K-8 School in Elgin, Illinois.

--Jonathan Widran 2020