

Michael Heinrich at Meyer's

by Rich Regent

Meyer's Restaurant & Bar at 4260 West Forest Home in Milwaukee, hasn't hosted regular live music in the lounge since it moved from 60th and Forest Home in June of 2003. Larry, the owner of Meyer's, likes Jazz and recently is thinking about having music again. As we all know, supporting live music is very inspirational for us musicians. So as a showcase for Larry, **Michael Heinrich**, solo guitarist, debuts his show at Meyer's on Valentine's Day plus the following Saturday and Sunday. Mike has played music at other venues to sit-in with instrumentalists like Jeff Stoll, Frank DeMiles, Johnny Garcia, Keith Sarnow or Hal Miller, or vocalists like Sue Russel, Sharon Schmidt and many others.

Mike is not only a talented guitarist, but is also good with people. Folks in Meyer's Restaurant lounge and adjoining restaurant area relax while listening to his show of tunes played with jazzy musical style.

His equipment includes two guitars: a jazz guitar and a jazz synthesizer, notebook computer, MIDI software, microphone and audio equipment. He is a Solo Guitarist with accompaniment, rhythm and harmony, all seamlessly and cleverly added by the equipment. Besides playing guitar, Mike's guitar synthesizer can become a vibes, flute, harmonica, organ or other MIDI instrument. We hear a sample of its ability and charm with Somewhere Over the Rainbow played with doos, aahs, oohs, and many voices of a harmony chorus.

Terry, an off-duty bartender wearing a Meyer's outfit, has her viola and bow along. She takes it out of its case, and then plays two very beautiful jazz tunes with Mike. Even Mike's proud Mom is in the audience applauding. Most guitarists play in keys with sharps like G or D. But I am challenged with all kinds of keys as I sit-in with my clarinet for several tunes like: Sweet Georgia Brown in Ab and Begin the Begin in Db. Eventually I decide to sit out and just listen to Mike for a while.

Mike encourages requests from the audience for tunes and plays Hideaway, Star Dust, Tea for Two, Blue Skies, Softly as in a Morning Sunrise MJQ, and many more. Listeners like that Mike says very few words between tunes. He chuckles and says, "Here's a dermatologist tune: I've Got You Under My Skin." After the pleasant solo and riffs echo away from that tune, Mike quickly follows with a another funny introduction, "Next, my theme song: What Are You Doing for the Rest of Your Life?" and simply and wonderfully plays the tune.

Michael Heinrich runs his own full time Tax and Accounting service for both businesses and individuals. He plays racquetball, and when weather permits rides his motorcycle. One married couple in the lounge enjoying Mike's music are his tax customers and have known him for 15 years. They say he's "personable," and wonder how he finds time to play music during the busy tax preparation season. They whisper, "Mike even played music at his own wedding!" Mike is much more than a Solo Guitarist, the audience continues to enjoy music great for their souls. Watch for Mike performing at Meyer's or at other fine music establishments.