

# John Penny

Guitarist

Composer

Producer

Educator

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Minneapolis Minnesota composer, guitarist, and singer John Penny expands the world of Jazz with a unique synthesis of Latin American, Afro-Cuban, and European Classical influences. His behind the scenes career scoring music for TV, film, and theater, yielded hundreds of emotive themes for viewers across the country. In concert, Penny's songs and guitar playing delivers streams of emotion directly to the hearts of his audience. In the Classical music world, his orchestral score *Scenes From Heavens Little Faces* won the New Orchestral works competition with the Minnesota Sinfonia. Penny is a Minnesota original bringing uncommon textures of music for the soul, honed in the North country.

John Penny has performed in concert with music legends Captain Jack MacDuff, [Bernard Purdie](#), Howard Levy (Bela Fleck and the Flecktones), and others. He also played in the groups kaminari, led by former Weather Report drummer Eric Gravatt, and Riotous-N led by renowned bassist Anthony Cox. Penny's unique guitar playing style fuses Jazz, Classical violin repertoire, Flamenco, and Blues. He builds emotion from the soulful bending of a single Blue note, to shredded streams of them. His acoustic guitars are featured in the song Bela from his Urban Tumble Album. The title song of the album displays Penny's naturalized fusion of Classical and Jazz. His tenor voice carries thoughtful lyrics in his songs "Don't Look So Far Away For Love" or "Brazilian Melodies".

## Links

[\[-SOUNDCLOUD-\]](#)

[John Penny Current Original Music](#)

[John Penny Current Cover songs](#)

[\[-YOUTUBE-\]](#)

[Playing At Fat Cat NYC](#)

[Improvded Guitar – Drum Duo](#)

[Film Score entry for HBO Westworld S3, Ep. 5a](#)

[\[-APPLE MUSIC-\]](#)

[Urban Tumble Album](#)

[\[-FACEBOOK-\]](#)

[John Penny](#)

[John Penny Musician-Band](#)

[\[-Public Radio Exchange\]](#)

[Interview #2 of 5](#)

## Testimonials

### \* Christina Ham \*

Playwright, Television Writer and Producer Netflix, HBO series Westworld

"Through a competitive process, I selected Mr. Penny due to his vast and varied musical experience as someone that I felt I could work with under the demands of the project to bring the musical world of my story to life."

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### \* Chuck Berg (1941-2016) \*

Writer at Downbeat Magazine, Professor at University of Kansas: Media and Film Studies

"Penny's *Realization* is an homage to John Coltrane's potent legacy.. impressive are Penny's poignant lyrics. [*Realization* is from an LP/CD called *Solstice* from the band of the same name.]"

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### \* Kevin Barnes \*

Jazz88 KBEM Producer/Community Partnerships, -Twin Cities Jazz Festival Board VP

"John is a commanding guitarist and a wonderful collaborator. In 2014, I was extremely pleased to commission John as a composer/performer to originate and perform a musical score for my Jazz Noir radio drama production of The Black Hand Side That Feeds You"

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### \* Danielle Daniel \*

Author, playwright, performing artist

"John Penny is an amazing musician and composer brings a unique energy to the stage that resonates within you."

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### \* Craig Eichhorn \*

Technical director at Dakota Jazz Bar - board member Twin cities Jazz Festival

"John Penny is a genius - amazing"

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### \* Eric Gravatt \*

"Penny, you've got those elephant ears"

## About John Penny's solo performance with the Virtual Band

Along with his performing groups of talented musicians, John Penny performs solo with accompaniment from a variety of "virtual backing groups". Decades of producing music and soundscapes for film and bands availed Penny the means to design stage ready backing tracks that mix seamlessly with the live stage presentation of his guitar and voice. His performance can range from the folksy intimacy of a solo singer-songwriter, to full swinging ensembles of virtual Jazz, R&B, or Classical Chamber groups. This performance allows the artist to fuse by custom concept, the arts of song creation, orchestration, audio sculpting, and live performance .

