



JULIAN LAGE

Sounding Point

Debut recording, released EmArcy

4th May 2009

Performing Live

Charlie Wright's, London

12th and 13th May 2009



**“Mr Lage is a very contemporary thinker.. a resonant and luminous piece of work”
(Jazzwise)**

As a young boy, **Julian Lage** appeared in the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Jules At Eight*, as himself, an eight year-old guitar-playing prodigy. Since then, he has been deemed a guitar virtuoso, been offered several record deals, and been labelled a musician not easily defined.

Perhaps it's simplest to pin the jazz label on Lage. At the age of twelve he was discovered by Gary Burton, and toured extensively with his *Generations Quintet* contributing a number of original compositions to their repertoire, filling the guitar chair previously held by such distinguished artists as Larry Coryell, Pat Metheny and John Scofield - Burton's previous 'latest guitar finds'! He has performed on two Grammy-nominated jazz recordings and received recognition from some of the most respected names in contemporary music. "Julian, you play with heart, mind, and soul. Where'd you find this so early in life?" asks Herbie Hancock, and banjo master Béla Fleck includes Lage in the company of adept improvisers when he calls him "one of the special ones."

Despite his record offers, Lage decided to wait for the right moment to document his own music, and patiently waited until he was ready to go into a studio with a band of like-minded players to realize his own musical vision.

Now the time has come. At the age of 21, the Boston-based Lage releases his debut album, ***Sounding Point*** on EmArcy Records. The CD is remarkably the most striking—and sophisticated—premiere of a young instrumental artist and composer in years. Playing a unique style that melds blues, classical, folk and jazz influences, Lage has created music that ranges from through-composed works and impromptu improvisations in duo and trio settings to solo excursions.

"It's been an incredible journey so far" says Lage. "From the time I've spent with musicians, playing blues in clubs when I was six, learning Dawg music from David Grisman, studying Indian music and receiving classical training, it has all helped to evolve my musical direction. I feel fortunate to have had a musical development that highlights the relationships between all genres. I feel the musical energy living in the space between acoustic, jazz, blues, Indian, and classical music has inspired me as a musician"

Sounding Point finds Lage leading his own eclectic band, including two unique musicians who play in the Bluegrass tradition among many other genres: **Béla Fleck** and **Chris Thile**, renowned mandolinist. Also guesting is long-term friend and fellow collaborator, pianist **Taylor Eigsti**. The album also features young musicians he met as a student in Boston: saxophonist **Ben Roseth**, cellist **Aristides Rivas**, bassist **Jorge Roeder** and drummer/percussionist **Tupac Mantilla**. The Grammy-winning production team includes renowned Classical producer, **Steve Epstein** and engineer, **Richard King**, known for their work on a myriad of pure Classical albums, and "crossover" masterpieces.

**Julian Lage will be available on Monday February 23rd to conduct press and radio interviews.
An extended press release, EPK and a copy of *Jules at Eight*, are all available.**

**Julian Lage performs at Charlie Wright's International Bar on Tues 12th + Weds 13th May.
(Tel 020 7490 8345 for more info)**

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