

First up on the list is Boyan Hristov, who is originally from Bulgaria, but came to Boston to study at Berklee College of Music. He has since made a life here, and although he resides in Boston, he's considered part of the musical family down here on the South Shore. Hristov is a sharply educated and extremely well-rehearsed guitar player and a true musician. He is well versed in theory and the mechanics of the instrument, which shows in his ability to switch between just about any style. I've heard Hristov play romantic acoustic ballads, shred the blues and tackle the "thick vibe" of world music, all with fine intuition and a genuine sound. His latest release, "Vitamin for the Soul," with his three piece outfit "B11," is truly a testament to the wonderful guitar player he has become. "Vitamin for the Soul" presents a variety of musical flavors that ranges from Jazz, to Blues, to Surf and even a dash of Lounge. It oozes personality with a collection of licks that are quirkily Hristov; expressive, precise, inventive and beautiful. He is a purest in the sense that what you hear on the record is usually quite true to what you would hear when seeing him live. In an age where so many musicians rely on technology to achieve certain technical abilities, Hristov relies only on himself, the instrument and a few effects pedals here and there. Word on the streets is that he will be releasing a solo acoustic record soon; something I'm sure all the "musician's musicians" and music lovers alike will enjoy. Keep an ear on Hristov at www.B11Band.com.