



## record & cd reviews

# Waxing On

## READY, GUIT-SET, GO

by Robin Tolleson

**CHRIS FLORY:** *FOR ALL WE KNOW* (Concord CCD-4403): ★★★★★

**C**harlie Christian changed the role of the guitar in jazz while with Benny Goodman between 1939 and '41, playing single-note horn-type lines and getting away from the chord/melody approach. No longer simply a background percussive force in music, a strumming current to propel a band along, the guitar has since (with some good promo from Elvis Presley and The Beatles later on) taken its place among the most important instruments in contemporary music. But even Christian might today be surprised by the number of guitar-led jazz groups there are.

**Chris Flory** mixes equal measure taste, swing, and soul on his Concord debut as a leader, a musically fulfilling date. This friendly rhythm section (Mike LeDonne, organ and piano; Phil Flanigan, bass; Chuck Riggs, drums) knows how to set up the featured player and likes to give each note its due, laying back on the beat. "Soft Winds" is a little bit cool, "Avalon" swings hard as Flory chords a solo, and the ballads like "Tenderly" or the guitarist's own "Lee's Blues" are lowdown and from the gut on *For All We Know* (on CD: 51:43 minutes).