

# Neil Zaza

## OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY



Not only has guitarist Neil Zaza helped to define the genre of melodic instrumental guitar, he has become a worldwide ambassador for the instrument itself. His melodic compositions have changed the way musicians play, and what audiences worldwide demand out of their guitar heroes.

With fiery technical brilliance and breathtaking musical interpretation, Neil Zaza has defined himself as the instrumental guitarist with an unparalleled ability to combine solid, catchy songwriting with a keen melodic sense and technical fury.

From his virtuoso rock solos, to laying a funk groove, to demonstrating his classical prowess by performing Bach and Mozart compositions, Zaza's extreme versatility has been showcased worldwide in concerts, clinics, festivals, as well as on his own solo instrumental albums. Zaza has shared the bill with Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Dweezil Zappa, Steve & Mike Porcaro (Toto), Yngwie Malmsteen, Vinnie Moore, and Andy Summers. He has performed on albums by Dweezil Zappa, Eric Carmen, Michael Stanley and also supplied guitar tracks for a Stewart Copeland-produced movie soundtrack.

It all began... in Akron, Ohio, where Neil Zaza was born, and still resides. Zaza started playing guitar at the age of 10 and went on to study classical guitar at The University of Akron under renowned educator and

performer Stephen Aron. Zaza began to teach guitar, and in 1987 he formed the rock band Zaza, which quickly became one of the hottest U.S. touring bands at that time. After a successful run and even a hit song "Maybe Tomorrow", the band disbanded and a brilliant solo career began.

In 1992, Zaza released his first solo album, *Two Hands, One Heart*. The world of instrumental music would never be the same again. Critics hailed the album and guitar players instantly had a new hero. There was a clearly unique voice in the music, one only beginning to define itself.

*Two Hands, One Heart* was followed-up by *Thrills and Chills* in 1993, recorded with famed San Antonio producer/artist Michael Morales. Later that year, Zaza was a guest soloist with The Hartford Symphony Orchestra, performing "1492" and a guitar interpretation of "West Side Story." In 1996 he was a featured performer at the Montreal Guitar Festival.

*Sing*, Zaza's third album, was released in 1997. *Sing* launched Zaza into super-stardom in the instrumental world with the monster hit "I'm Alright." It remains one of the most popular and challenging songs for guitarists to learn, and continues to influence new generations of players. There are even ring tones and dance-mix versions of the song in Asia.

This proved to only be the beginning. Zaza's fourth album, *Staring at The Sun*, which featured Ross Valory, Steve Smith and Stuart Hamm, was a masterpiece of melodic instrumental rock. It's blazing fast solos, rich melodies and soulful ballads, including a stunning cover of Prince's "Purple Rain", wowed fans, impressed critics and permanently launched Neil Zaza into the upper elite of guitar virtuosos. The release of this album proved to be a defining moment in his career.

December 2001 saw the birth of a new holiday tradition for fans of instrumental rock. Neil unveiled *One Silent Night...*, an instrumental take on traditional Christmas songs that could be described as "Hendrix meets Beethoven under the Christmas tree." These holiday concerts have become an annual tradition and are among the best selling holiday shows at the famed Playhouse Square theaters in Cleveland Ohio. The *One Silent Night...* shows have featured choirs and even a 60-piece symphony orchestra. Neil has released two studio CDs (*One Silent Night... Volumes 1 & 2*) of his unique take on holiday music as well as a double live CD (*A Night at the Palace*) capturing and documenting this groundbreaking holiday event.

2003 was a hugely successful year for Neil Zaza. In February he founded Melodik Records, which is based out of his hometown of Akron, Ohio. Later that year Zaza garnered a headlining spot at the revered Busan International Rock Festival in South Korea. Zaza stunned the capacity crowd of over 15,000. Performing overseas is nothing new. Zaza, one of the hottest guitar acts overseas has also become one of the guitar world's most sought-after educators and now maintains a worldwide year-round clinic tour schedule. Recent tours have traveled to China, Taiwan, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Poland and Italy to name a few.

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Guitar manufacturers around the globe regularly approach Neil for endorsements on signature guitars. 2004 saw the release of the Cort Neil Zaza NZS-1 signature model. Guitar fans quickly snatched up the signature models and it went on to be one of Cort's best selling models of all time. This was followed up shortly after with a newer model (NZS-2). In 2011, Neil signed on with Carvin Guitars and was pivotal in bringing a new 24 fret carved top guitar to market.

Neil Zaza is a frequent guest at the prestigious Winter NAMM Convention and a regular on the guitar clinic circuit around the world. Neil has been featured in a variety of international guitar publications over the years and even garnered the cover of such magazines as Music Music, Guitar Fan, Guitar Shop, Modern Player and Poland's Guitar & Bass, as well as technical music disciplines Home Recording, Musician, EQ, and Electronic Musician. Numerous readers' polls have also been won for "Best Guitarist" in worldwide publications. Locally, the coveted Best Guitarist Award was won at The Free Times Music Awards in both 2005 & 2006.

Neil's latest CD is 212 which was released on February 12, 2011. 212 holds a special place for Neil as it represents a "magical" number for him. For years, the number 212 keeps popping up in places where Neil plays, lives and travels. Numerology aside, 212 takes Neil's playing to new levels by demonstrating his ability to write songs that combine his highly advanced technical prowess and accurate speed with strong melodic hooks and unforgettable melodies. This combination is deadly and sure to set the watermark for how expressive and emotive a guitarist can be.

"It's always been about the song for me," states Neil. "I remember all the tunes that really moved me when I was growing up and it wasn't about the guitarist playing 128th notes. It was about an inexplicable connection I felt drawing me to wear out my records as I couldn't get enough of that rush of the song itself! That's what I try and do with my music today and 212 in specific. It's always about the song!"

With the new 212 CD now released worldwide, Neil is preparing to bring his unique and innovative style of melodic guitar playing to even great audiences worldwide. To see the global impact that Neil has made with his playing, tune into YouTube and see what over 1.5 million fans have witnessed on his video of him performing his hit "I'm Alright." The combination is deadly and sure to set the watermark for how expressive and emotive a guitarist can be.



***This unique voice continues to evolve...***



# Neil Zaza

212 IS NEWEST RELEASE FROM RENOWNED MELODIC GUITARIST



What happens when a special number begins showing up in all aspects of your life? You begin to see it every day and in many places. When you look at a clock, part of your street address, receipts, your amplifiers, even in friends phone numbers. Well when you are one of the worlds most acclaimed and unique guitar players, you take that number and make it the focus of your next musical project.

That's exactly what world-renowned instrumental guitarist Neil Zaza has done with his latest CD, 212.

*"It's crazy that the number 212 kept popping up everywhere and has for years! I see it so much that it is almost like a message to me throughout the day...almost like an old friend checking in on my from time to time. For the CD, coincidentally, it was the address of one of the studios I recorded at, time of some of the videotaping we did and it showed up just about every day in some form or another. With that kind of dedication I had to call the CD 212!"* laughs Neil.

Numerology aside, 212 takes Neil's playing to new levels by demonstrating his ability to write songs that combine his highly advanced technical prowess and accurate speed with strong melodic hooks and unforgettable melodies. This combination is deadly and sure to set the watermark for how expressive and emotive a guitarist can be.

Over the past two decades Neil's guitar playing and "singing" style of melody has defined modern day instrumental guitar the world over. His melodic compositions have not only changed the way musicians play, but what audiences demand out of their guitar heroes.

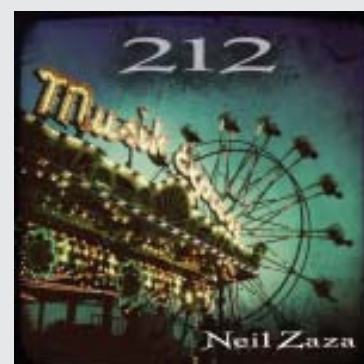
*"It's always been about the song for me,"* states Neil. *"I remember all the tunes that really moved me when I was growing up and it wasn't about the guitarist playing 128th notes. It was about an inexplicable connection I felt drawing me to wear out my records as I couldn't get enough of that rush of the song itself! That's what I try and do with my music today. It's always about the song!"*

212 also goes against the trend of offering bonus tracks on downloads by including two special bonus tracks found only on the physical CD. These tracks are his interpretations of two classic rock songs from the 80's – the Police's "Message in a Bottle" and the one hit wonder, "Take On Me" by the group A-Ha. Both of these bonus tracks feature fiery guitar playing that take the tracks to new heights, and speed.

"I really want to make the listening experience of the CD something special. That's why we made the bonus tracks on the physical CD only. There's something about having a physical piece of music in your hands like an actual LP that brings the music closer to the fan. I really love that" says Neil.

#### TRACK LISTING:

1. Magnus 212
  2. Go!
  3. King of the World
  4. Is This Wonderland?
  5. To the Moon and Back
  6. Baroque Sky
  7. If This is Goodbye
  8. Wild Horses
  9. The Beauty
- Bonus Tracks:
10. Message in a Bottle
  11. Take On Me



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Produced by Neil Zaza

All arrangements by Neil Zaza  
All songs written by Neil Zaza (except *Wild Horses* by Neil Zaza & Brian Campbell and *The Beauty* by Brian Campbell)

Neil Zaza-All Guitars, Bass, Keyboards, Mandolin, Programming  
Garrett Janos-Drums  
Todd Rogers-Hammond B3, Piano  
Fabio Colella-Drums on 6,7  
Walter Cerasani-Bass on 3,5,6,7  
Brian Campbell-Additional guitars on 9  
Timothy M Bradford-Piano on 5

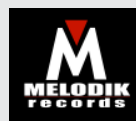
**RELEASE DATE:** 2/12/2011

**FILE UNDER:** Rock

**MSRP:** \$14.99

**ORDERING INFO:** Melodik Records  
12600 Rockside Rd. #210  
Cleveland, Ohio 44125 USA  
(330) 535-5150

**PUBLICITY:** Rod Flauhaus (rod@viawerk.com)  
216.272.7776



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## DISCOGRAPHY

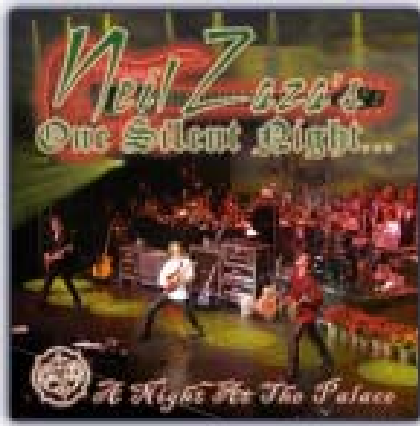


### 212 2011

Neil Zaza-All Guitars, Bass, Keyboards,  
Mandolin, Programming  
Garrett Janos-Drums  
Fabio Colella-Drums on 6,7  
Walter Cerasani-Bass on 3,5,6,7  
Todd Rogers-Hammond B3, Piano  
Brian Campbell-Additional guitars on 9  
Timothy M Bradford-Piano on 5

#### Track Listing

1. Magnus 212
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6. Baroque Sky
7. If This is Goodbye
8. Wild Horses
9. The Beauty



### One Silent Night... A Night At The Palace 2007

Neil Zaza (Guitar)  
Nick Greathouse (Rhythm Guitar)  
David Strieter (Keyboards)  
Raymond J. Liptak (Bass)  
Bill Cioce (Drums)  
The Singing Angels (Choir)

#### Disc One

01. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
02. Angels We Have Heard On High
03. Oh Holy Night
04. Do You Hear What I Hear?
05. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
06. I'm Alright
07. Dance Of The Sugar-Plum Fairy
08. O Come, All Ye Faithful
09. Dance Of The Reed-Flutes

#### Disc Two

01. Carol Of The Bells
02. Joy To The World
03. Hallelujah
04. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony
05. Cinematic
06. Little Drummer Boy
07. The Nutcracker: March
08. Rhapsody In Z
09. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas



### When Gravity Fails 2006

Neil Zaza (Lead, Rhythm, Baritone & Bass  
Guitars, Synth)  
Michael Anthony (Bass)  
Timothy M. Bradford (Keyboards)  
Bill Cioce (Drums)  
Peter Frampton (Guitar)  
Doug Johns (Bass)  
Scotty Kormos (Drums)  
Mark Leach (Hammond B-3 Organ)  
Roger Joseph Manning Jr. (Keyboards)  
Bobby Rock (Drums)  
Jordan Rudess (Keyboards)  
Steve Smith (Drums, Percussion)  
T.M. Stevens (Funky Bass)  
David Strieter (Keyboards)  
Garry "GMan" Sullivan (Drums)

#### Disc One

01. Something Anything
02. Purple Plush
03. Cinematic
04. In My Dreams
05. Bleed
06. Celestine
07. Danza Della Notte
08. Heavyocity
09. My Only Son
10. My Dearest
11. Ultra
12. The Awakening
13. Before The Throne



# Neil Zaza



## REWIND: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION 2005

### Disc One

01. I Spy
02. All My Life...
03. Fargo
04. Little Drummer Boy (Live)
05. Lost In Your Dream
06. Melodica
07. Jesu, The Joy Of Man's Desiring
08. Higher And Higher (Live)
09. Melodia
10. Town Without Pity (Demo)
11. I'm Alright (Live)
12. Zen, Karma And Other Good Things
13. We Three Kings (Live)
14. [Untitled]
15. New, New Math
16. Tobaber
17. Across The Sands

### Disc Two

01. Friends (Satriani Cover)
02. Simple Life (Writing Session)
03. This Time
04. Frankenstein (Live)
05. Eleanor Rigby (Outtake)
06. Sleepwalk (Demo)
07. Everything I Should Have Said...
08. Miller's Atomic Mood Swing (Live)
09. Faith
10. Guitar Solo (Live)
11. Oh Holy Night (Live)
12. Fearless (Live)
13. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Live)
14. The Joof (Live)



## MELODICA 2004

Neil Zaza (Guitar)  
Mark Leach (Hammond B-3 Organ)  
Timothy M. Bradford (Keyboards)  
Doug Johns (Bass)  
Raymond J. Liptak (Bass)  
Bill Cioce (Drums)

### Disc 1

01. On With The Show
02. This Time
03. All My Life...
04. As I Go Before You
05. Melodica
06. Breadstick
07. Ship of Dreams
08. Flow
09. I Can See Miracles
10. Across the Sands
11. Rena
12. Very Important Cat Things
13. Everything About You
14. Forgot to Make Her Mine
15. Goodbye



## ONE SILENT NIGHT... VOLUMES 1 & 2 2001

Produced by Neil Zaza  
All Arrangements by Timothy M. Bradford  
Neil Zaza- Guitars, Engineering  
Timothy M. Bradford- Keyboards, Organ,  
Orchestration  
Greg Henderson- Bass  
Bill Cioce- Drums

Fred Patterson- Conducting of the Chapel  
Orchestra  
Jim Mitchell- Directing of the Chapel  
Orchestra  
Paul Steven Leary- Live String Chart  
Transcription and Orchestration

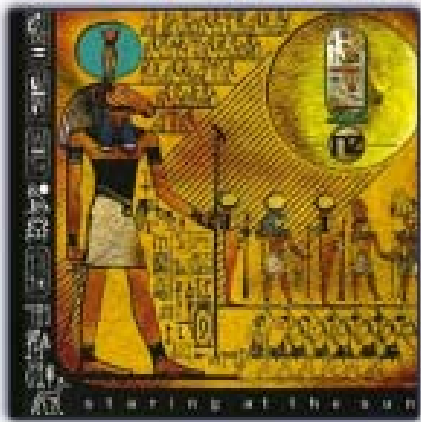
### Disc One:

01. Carol Of The Bells
02. Joy To The World
03. Do You Hear What I Hear
04. Oh Holy Night
05. O Come All Ye Faithful
06. Jesu, The Joy Of Man's Desiring
07. The First Noel
08. Little Drummer Boy
09. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
10. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
11. Bonus Track: Little Drummer Boy-

### Disc Two:

01. The Messiah Medley
02. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
03. Silent Night
04. O Tannenbaum
05. Away In A Manger
06. We Three Kings
07. Panis Angelicus
08. The Lord's Prayer
09. Angels We Have Heard On High
10. The Christmas Song
11. Bonus Track: We Three Kings

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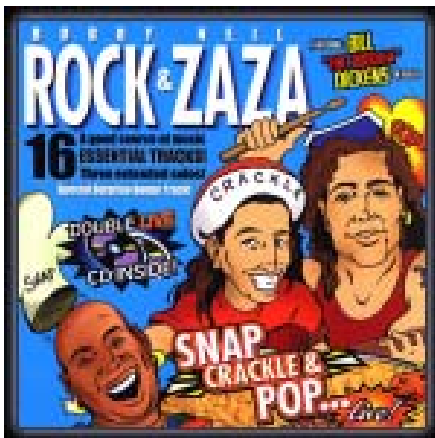


## STARING AT THE SUN 2001

Neil Zaza- Guitars, Production, Engineering  
Steve Smith- Drums  
Ross Valory- Bass  
Timothy M. Bradford- Keyboards, Production  
Stuart Hamm- Bass on #7, 13  
Robin DiMaggio- Drums on #7, 13  
Michael Lee Firkins- Guitar on #9, 10  
Heather Walker- Strings  
Bruce Walker- Strings, Horns  
Linda Atherton- Strings  
Leslie Braidech- Strings  
Laura Russel- Strings  
Ian Indorf- Horns  
Ted Peplowski- Horns

### Disc 1

01. I Spy
02. Lift
03. Lost In Your Dream
04. Zen, Karma And Other Good Things
05. The Wonder Of You
06. New, New Math
07. Rain
08. Every Thought Of You
09. Baking @ 350° F °
10. Fargo
11. Angel
12. Definition
13. Purple Rain



## SNAP, CRACKLE & POP...LIVE! 1998

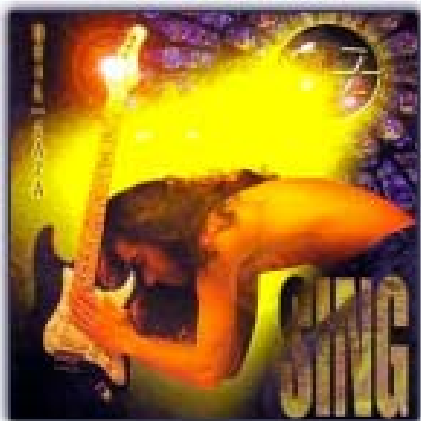
Neil Zaza (Guitar)  
Bill "The Buddha" Dickens (Bass)  
Bobby Rock (Drums)

### Disc 1

01. Intro
02. I Wish
03. Fearless
04. Lightworker
05. Guitar Intro
06. I'm Alright
07. Quadzilla (Drum Solo)
08. Walk This Way

### Disc 2

01. Jungle Boogie
02. Amazing Grace
03. Hailin'
04. The Duel
05. Guitar Solo
06. Bass Solo
07. Hailin' Reprise
08. Bonus Radio Interview



## SING 1996

Neil Zaza (Guitar)  
Eric Fritsch (Bass)  
Michael Papatonis (Drums)  
Bruce Walker (Horns)

### Disco 1

01. Everything I Should Have Said...
02. Crazy Love
03. I'm Alright
04. Journey To Texas
05. IMC@ 3:14 a.m.
06. Phunk
07. Amazing Grace
08. Hailin'
09. Jenny's Song
10. Over The Hill
11. A Song For Home
12. Melodia (Live)

# Neil Zaza



## THRILLS & CHILLS 1993

Neil Zaza (Guitar)  
Blake Sakamoto (Keyboards)  
Doug Johns (Bass)  
Christopher Ceja (Drums)

### Disco 1

01. Joof
02. Ground Zero
03. Melodia
04. Champ
05. Tobaber
06. Red Meat
07. Higher and Higher
08. [Untitled]
09. Ain't No Thang
10. Haunt