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## Local Soundtrack: Jazz guitarist Frank DiBussolo much more than an 'average white cat'

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By Steve Siegel Special to The Morning Call

"Average White Cats," Frank DiBussolo Quartet, Lost World Music LWM 017

Emmaus jazz guitarist Frank DiBussolo is arguably one of the best "unknown" jazz musicians in the area. Yet he's certainly not unknown to some of the top names in jazz. He's been nominated eight times for a Grammy, has recorded extensively, and has performed internationally with such icons as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Doc Severinsen, Bucky Pizzarelli, and many others.

His latest CD, "Average White Cats," marks a departure from his previous projects, mostly jazz transcriptions of popular show tunes and movie themes.

This recording consists of all-original material, either composed or arranged by DiBussolo, with the exception of its last track, the classic "When You're Smiling," dedicated to the memory of jazz singer/songwriter Kenny Rankin, who died last June. It's also the only vocal, which DiBussolo does in a gentle croon.

This is cool, classic ensemble jazz, the kind that makes you feel you're at the Blue Note or on Basin Street back in the day, listening to Goodman, Christian, and Krupa. But its very retro sound is more 1960s than 1930's, with lots of Latin-infused rhythms, a sexy, seductive alto sax that recalls Plas Johnson's classic "Pink Panther" silkiness, and DiBussolo's terrific guitar runs.

The group plays together with exceptional polish, and features Greg Edwards on clarinet and sax, Greg Eicher on double bass, Sean Kennedy on drums and Latin percussion, and "Chicago" Carl Snyder on keyboards.

The disc's title cut is possibly its best, with some fabulous guitar work even Les Paul would be proud of, a very '60s-sounding fuzzed electronic organ solo, and some very cool, laid back sax. Eicher plays a lyrical, husky bass on all cuts, but especially on the very bluesy, slinky "Loco Linda."

Latin rhythms abound with smooth and sophisticated rhumbas and bossa novas everywhere. But they can become wonderfully electric, such as in "Una Samba Pequena," which opens with a slow, gentle samba that becomes increasingly lively with sparkling keyboards, terrific percussion, and smoking guitar licks.

