

ReviewsUndertones

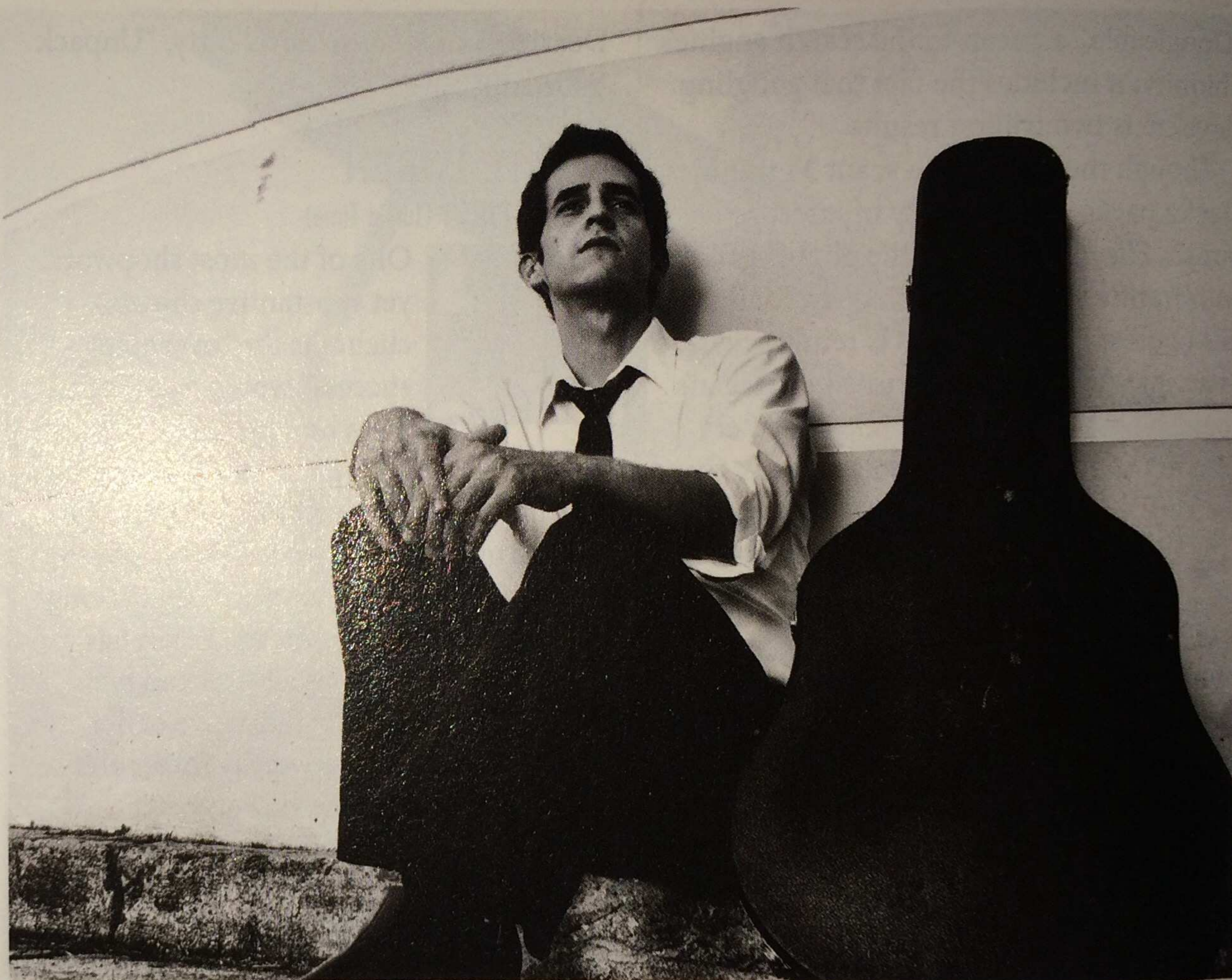
by Bill Milkowski

GABRIEL VICÉNS

POINT IN TIME (gabrielvicens.com)



Guitarist-composer Gabriel Vicéns, a leading light of Puerto Rico's jazz scene, flaunts a modernist sensibility on his impressive debut as a leader. His dark, warm-toned legato guitar lines share a kindred mastery with Stateside players like Kurt Rosenwinkel, Mike Moreno and Ben Monder. On such pieces as the opening "El Comienzo," the bristling title track and the mellow "La Diferencia," he locks into tight, flowing unisons with alto saxophonist Jonathan Suazo, his potent cohort on the frontline. Vicéns' considerable compositional skills are showcased on the tender and lyrical "Beautiful Place" and "Frame of Mind." Eddie Gomez guests—along with tenor saxophonist David Sánchez—on the stirring "Cuadro"; the bass great is prominently featured on the introspective 12-minute suite, "El Camino," and Sánchez digs deep on the stirring closer, "The World in My View."



▲ Postbop Guitar From Puerto Rico: Gabriel Vicéns

BLACK MUSIC DISASTER

BLACK MUSIC DISASTER (Thirsty Ear)

Matthew Shinn guests on this

by bassist Linda Oh, alto saxophonist Andrew Gould and his former North Texas schoolmate Ross Pederson on