

Ejazz News

John Gilbert



The personnel includes Billy Kerr (alto, flute), Larry Williams (trumpet, flugelhorn), Jeff Jarvis (trumpet, flugelhorn), Andrew Lippman (trombone), Ian Robbins (guitar), Mark Balling (keyboards), Adam Cohen (bass), Angel Figueroa (percussion) and Steve Barns (drums)

The powerful tenor saxophone of Bruce Eskovitz commands this ten man band and leaves nothing left unsaid in this musical endeavor. "Detour Ahead" Herb Ellis' classic is heir to Bruce Eskovitz's steamy tenor solo, a refreshing change from the usual fare heard today. This is a remarkable soliloquy by the leader. I could say it gets no better..So I will. The arrangement and section work is astounding. "Just In The "Newk" Of Time"..Hand clapping and foot stomping time as this band jumps on this tune like it was something good to eat. Andrew Lippman's trombone solo is fat and sassy. Eskovitz comes on like he means it and that tenor is making some bold statements with a no nonsense message. This track does not look back...It burns and then some. "One Last Time" is Gospel time with Eskovitz's patented tenor as hot as a scalded dog and Jeff Jarvis leaving nothing unsaid on the trumpet. This tune captures the ideation and pure magic of Bruce Eskovitz and his soulful, passionate solo. The tenor saxophone is played many ways and in many styles these days but Bruce Eskovitz is of the school that adheres to the basic tenets of jazz and that is: Play it like you mean it and never sacrifice beauty for exaggerated affectation. In a word, this recording consists of superb musicians selected by a leader who knows the value of musicianship and leads by example.

5 STARS