Mp3 Evan Stone - Sticks & Stone, Vol. 1



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A great mix of straight-ahead jazz stardards and compelling original tunes. 9 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Bebop, JAZZ: Traditional Jazz Combo Details: REVIEWS: 12/01/06 ALL ABOUT JAZZ Ollie Bivins Artist: Evan Stone Album: Sticks Stone/ Vol.1 Label: Red Jazz Drummer Evan Stone has played with jazz artists such as Maynard Ferguson, Brian Bromberg, Darek Oles and Dr. Art Davis. Stone's first album on the upstart Red Jazz label, aptly titled (Sticks Stone), consists of five standards along with four original compositions by members of his band-all Los Angeles and Orange County musicians. Throughout the nine song set, Stone repeatedly demonstrates his ability to more than ably play in various different jazz formats. Leading off, Stone leads the band on a full steam ahead take of "You and the Night and the Music" as he, tenor saxophonist Matt Otto, and pianist Josh Nelson continually push and prod one another, steadily building in intensity and then suddenly stopping the tune on a dime. The Band takes a light-footed, quick jaunt throught the usually more solemnly played Billy Strayhorn tune, "Isfahan". On Dexter Gordon's "Cheesecake", the group goes down the soul-jazz road, highlighted by the funky organ of Joe Bagg and the tasteful guitar stylings of Steve Cotter. All the time, Stone never misses a beat. Pianst Josh Nelson's "For My Friends" is a gently swinging tune that cries out for someone to add lyrics to. Bagg's soulful "Grapes" recalls some of the more soul-jazz work of guitarist John Scofield and organist Larry Goldings, with the leader Stone holding down the fort with a funky groove. Sticks Stone/Vol.1 is an impressive debut from Evan Stone that bodes extremely well for his future in jazz music as a leader in his own right. 12/01/06 POP MATTERS by Quentin B. Huff Drummer Evan Stone is a musician on the rise. The Winner of the 2006 Orange County (California) Award for Best Jazz is already known for putting together impressively tight bands. With Sticks Stone, Vol. 1, Stone again assembles a formidable posse. Dont let the album titles play on Stones name and his love for the sticks mislead you into thinking this is a

purely solo effort. As bandleader and co-producer, Stone headlines a lively collaboration between himself (drums), Josh Nelson (piano), Steve Cotter (guitar), Joe Bagg (Hammond B3 organ), Matt Otto (tenor sax), David Miller (bass), Tony Guerrero (trumpet), and Sara Gazarek (vocals). The results are consistently good, from the opening drum roll of You and the Night and the Music to the final track, East of the Sun. Band members share the spotlight, evidenced by Nelsons impressive plano handiwork on the aforementioned opener and closer and Ottos flavorful sax on KCAMS and November Waltz. Out of the nine selections here, only the somber Moonlight in Vermont, midway through the set, offers vocals. Sara Gazarek, a recent graduate of the Thorton School of Music at University of Southern California, does the honors, accentuating the songs quiet atmosphere with her toasty, mesmerizing tone. In addition to Gazareks contributions, Sticks Stones mixture of original compositions and jazz standards demonstrates the albums collaborative qualities. While all the tracks are solid, my favorites are Cheesecake, KCAMS, Moonlight in Vermont, East of the Sun, and the quirky but funky Grapes. The quality of this volume ensures that III be waiting eagerly for the next one. Friday, September 22, 2006 Orange Pop: A local music smorgasbord Orange Pop column. By ROBERT KINSLER Special to the Register Evan Stone, "Sticks Stone/Vol. 1" (Red Jazz) Fullerton-based drummer Evan Stone has assembled a good group of players and the collective excels in bringing classic jazz alive on the daring nine-track "Sticks Stone/Vol. 1." From the wistful nine-minute take on Dexter Gordon's "Cheesecake" (featuring some great sax work by Matt Otto) to a memorable version of Brooks Bowman's "East of the Sun," the disc features strong arrangements and flawless performances. Vocalist Sara Gazarek brings plenty of magic to "Moonlight in Vermont," with the John Blackburn-Kark Suessdorf jewel further defined by the deft skills of pianist Josh Nelson and trumpet player Tony Guerrero. Other players featured across the CD include David Miller (bass), Joe Bagg (Hammond B3 organ) and Steve Cotter (guitar). You might like if you enjoy: Dexter Bentley Evan Stone, Sticks Stone/Vol. 1 (Red Jazz) Talk about a left field surprise. Drummer Evan Stone has been busy making a solid name for himself in Southern California (check out Peter Erskines shining endorsement in the liner notes), working with a variety of jazz groups and never missing a beat. Stones drumming is always inventive, but he never forgets hes the timekeeper in service of the song. On this

new labels debut release, he turns on the heat, alongside saxophonist Matt Otto and several other

----- "Red Jazz picked a winner in drummer Evan Stone to launch their debut recording. Evan is all about a new rejuvenated left coast sound. His lineup is strong including Matt Otto (sax) who shines on "For My Friends", Joe Bagg (B3) and Josh Nelson (p). Sara Gazarek adds a vocal track on "Moonlight In Vermont" to balance out the mostly bebop set. But they really swing in a cool jazz way. "East of the Sun" is a great example." D. Oscar Groomes- O's Place Jazz Magazine

through a fantastic mix of jazz standards and driving originals that is sure to please purist and casual listeners alike. Musicians: Evan Stone Drums Matt Otto Tenor Sax Josh Nelson Piano David Miller Bass Steve Cotter Guitar Tony Guerrero Trumpet Joe Bagg Hammond B3 Organ Sara Gazarek Vocals Tracks: 1. You And The Night And The Music 4:54 2. Isfahan 5:30 3. Cheesecake 8:58 4. For My Friends 8:14 5. Moonlight In Vermont 5:01 (Featuring Vocals By Sara Gazarek) 6. KCAMS 5:23 7. Grapes 5:54 8. November Waltz 7:10 9. East Of The Sun 8:36 CREDITS: Evan Stone has toured the United States with trumpeter/bandleader Maynard Ferguson and traveled throughout Australia and New Zealand with pop artist Toni Childs. Evan formed the Progressive/New Thing Rock band Salty The Pocketknife which released their debut recording in 2003. When not leading his own bands throughout the west coast, Evan tours with the Greg Adams Band (Tower of Power) and pop artists Aly AJ. Evan has shared the stage alongside these notable artists: Larry Carlton (Steely Dan); Gerald Albright (Whitney Houston); Tom Scott (Joni Mitchell); Thom Rotella (Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra); Jeff Skunk Baxter (Steely Dan); Max Bennett (Joni Mitchell); Chris Botti (Sting); Paul Carmen (Frank Zappa); Lenny Castro (Toto, Stevie Wonder); Melvin Davis (Chaka Khan, Pointer Sisters); Wilton Felder (The Crusaders); Brandon Fields (Tower of Power); Mike Garson (David Bowie); Grant Geissman (Chuck Mangione); Greg Adams (Tower of Power); Tim Landers (Al Dimeola, Billy Cobham); Alex Ligertwood (Santana); Jeff Lorber; Eric Marienthal (Chick Corea); John Tesh; and Diane Schuur In addition, Evan Stone has played with Kei Akagi, John Beasley, Brian Bromberg, David Garfield, Gilbert Castellanos, Darek Oles, Bob Sheppard, Chuck Manning, Doug Webb, Steve Cardenas, Theo Saunders, Otmaro Ruiz, Luther Hughes, Bob Cooper, Dr. Art Davis, Llew Matthews, Rob Mullins, and Anthony Wilson.

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