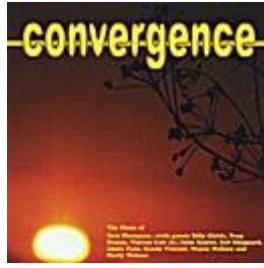


# Mp3 Vern Thompson - Convergence



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Medium tempo straight ahead Jazz with very melodic themes ; some stated in a heavily Latin context. 11

MP3 Songs JAZZ: Traditional Jazz Combo, JAZZ: Latin Jazz Details: Vern Thompson was born in Oakland, California on July 29th 1950. He was raised in Berkeley, CA, attending Berkeley High School and graduating in the spring of 1968. Much later Berkeley High would produce musicians Benny Green, Joshua Redmon and Peter Apfelbaum. "At the time I attended Berkeley High there was very little recognition of jazz in the curriculum , there was only a jazz appreciation course and no jazz band." In March of 1969 Vern went to work at KJAZ-FM off and on for the next twelve years using the air name Lee Thomas. He also attended San Francisco State University where he studied Broadcast Communications and music. During this time he began private study of the trumpet, starting with John Coppola and continuing to study with Warren Gale Jr., Eddie Henderson, Woody Shaw and Joe Henderson (studying with each for about two years). "After I received my B.A. from San Francisco State I just continued to study trumpet and kept going with music. I wanted to be a professional musician. I wanted to be one of the best so I studied with those I (and those in the know) considered to be the best. " However he would much later have to discontinue playing the trumpet because of an ailment called Focal Dystonia, a nerve and muscle disorder that causes a cramping and locking of the fingers. "This pretty much destroyed my technique... all the practicing five and six hours a day went down the tubes. But what I learned about improvisational theory, I was able to use in composition". At this point he began to write more in order to stay with the music. "Since all I want to do in this music revolves around improvisation, when I write, I write for the improviser. I am specifically interested in writing music to expand the jazz repertoire. This music is, and always has been, about improvisation and no one who really innovated in the area of improvisation did so within a big band or a very large group. This music is about compactness. I feel that I

can say all that I want to say with ten or less instruments." Composer and arranger Vern Thompson's enormous technical skill and artistic vision are at the core of this fine straight-ahead Jazz session, recorded at the Spark Studios in Emeryville, California. Thompson is of a highly melodic temperament, and his challenging, original compositions are thoughtfully interpreted by outstanding performers who are leaders in their own right. Gale and Childs are among the most melodic players in contemporary music, and their inspired efforts here deserve repeated listening. A case in point is expertly crafted the quintet performance, "Pooka", a medium up-tempo piece whose harmonic structure evokes Woody Shaw's best designs. And Tana's explosive polyrhythms on "Swirl" reveal a creative musician in his prime. This is an advanced group that deserves an immediate engagement at a premiere Jazz performance venue. .... James D. Armstrong, Jr. Editor, Music in Transition "Jazz Now Magazine".\_\_\_\_\_

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