

Mp3 The W.e.s. Group - Jazz: World Fusion



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Echoes of ancestral and native sounds can be heard in this collective of talented musicians, whose folk jazz and acoustic approach create a distinctive sound of peace and beauty. Exceptional musicians in their own right, the collaboration of these season 8 MP3 Songs JAZZ: World Fusion, JAZZ: Traditional Jazz Combo Details: W. E. S. (William E. Smith, Ph.D.) - Through studying, composing, teaching and living music, saxophonist/composer W.E.S. has sought to enrich the lives of others through sound. His family roots go deep into the history of jazz and the African-American experience. W.E.S.'s grandfather and great-uncle, owned a music publishing company in the 1920s and published music that was performed by the great King Oliver as well as Noble Sissle. Many musicians used to come by the family home on the south side of Chicago including Art Tatum. W.E.S.'s cousin Warren Smith Jr. played percussion with the Miles Davis, Gil Evans orchestra and many other notable performers. In the spirit of this legacy, W.E.S. himself has performed nationally and internationally with his group and with jazz greats such as James Moody, Donald Byrd, Kenny Burrell, Wynton Marsalis, and Jon Hendricks. After leading a quartet under his own name (The Will Smith Quartet) for several years, W.E.S. decided to form a group with a different focus. He wanted the group to transcend the traditional classification of jazz from strictly art music, to music that has a world flavor and is not only enjoyed but inspires the best in people. W.E.S. is currently the Jazz Ensemble director at American University and gives lectures on jazz and hip hop at the University of Maryland, University of Delaware, and Howard University. "Smith's passion is evident from-the-jump. He has a kind of take no prisoners approach that is full of youthful fire..." - Willard Jenkins, JazzTimes Magazine "[Will is] an accomplished musician with a confident sound and an appealing repertoire, who brings to mind "the legacy of John Coltrane." - Mike Joyce, Washington Post "Smith freely channels the spirits of Charlie Parker, Dexter Gordon, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, and

other masters with minimal derivativeness, but comes up with his own muscular style." - Eric Brace,
Washington Post

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