

## Mp3 Charles Blenzig - Say What You Mean



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Electric jazz featuring Michael Brecker, Mike Stern, Will Lee, Manolo Badrena, Alex Foster and Dennis Chambers. 10 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Jazz Fusion Details: Charles Blenzig is a pianist, composer, arranger, and percussionist who slips effortlessly among musical styles while retaining his own distinct sound. Born in the Bronx, raised in Pelham, and now residing in Queens, he has been a part of the New York City jazz scene for over 20 years. The first real visible gig for Charles was as a member of the Gil Evans Orchestra that had a steady Monday night engagement at Sweet Basil Jazz Club in New York City. He was fortunate to play with New York's top musicians George Adams, Hiram Bullock, Mark Eagan, Gil Goldstein, Lou Soloff, Kenwood Denard and Alex Foster. It was here that he got the chance to unlock the mysteries of one of the finest arrangers in the history of Jazz: Gil Evans. In 1990 he was offered the position of musical director for singer/songwriter Michael Franks, a position which he still holds. Working with Mr. Franks has led to performances and television appearances throughout the world including Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Africa and Russia. Most recently, Charles produced and arranged Michael's recording Watching the Snow as well as co-writing the title track to Michael's CD entitled Barefoot on the Beach. During the mid 1990's the keyboardist performed regularly with several groups including Bill Evans and Kenwood Denard. Both stints led to recordings: Bill Evans and "Push" Live in Europe and Kenwood's Just Advance which featured bass virtuoso Marcus Miller. Over the years Charles has worked with many accomplished musicians and groups including Larry Coryell, Michael Urbaniak, Michael Brecker, Joe Beck, The Mingus Big Band, Joe Locke, Eddie Gomez, Randy Brecker, Toninio Horta, Grady Tate, Buster Williams, Roy Ayers, John Patituchi, vocalist Patti Austin, and Latin Jazz legend Gato Barbieri. On the international circuit, Charles has toured and recorded with renowned Korean guitarist Jack Lee, Japan's premiere flugal hornist/vocalist Toku and Greek vibraphonist Christos. The pianist also

hosted "The Late Night Session" at the Blue Note Jazz Club in Manhattan. It was a steady gig for five years which made him a recognizable face in the jazz community as well as introducing him to scores of both seasoned and up and coming musicians from around the globe. This engagement made it possible for hundreds of young musicians to experience their first performance in a Manhattan Jazz Club. Along with touring, recording and producing, Charles is also a respected teacher currently on faculty at the S.U.N.Y. Purchase Conservatory located in Westchester County, New York. The Jazz Department, headed by Dr. Todd Coolman, boasts one of the finest faculties in the country including John Faddis, Steve Wilson, John Abercrombie, Hal Galper and John Riley. Charles has been a guest artist on over 50 recordings and has four CDs as a leader. The first, a self-titled debut featuring Will Lee and Mike Stern, the second Say What You Mean, produced by Will Lee and joined by Michael Brecker, Dennis Chambers and Manolo Badrena. The third is a piano trio recording entitled Certain Standards with Kenny Davis and Gene Jackson. And the latest release, It's About Time for Double Time Records, features Tim Hagens, Greg Tarty, Marcus Strickland, Sean Conly and Billy Kilson.

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