

Mp3 Myanna - One Never Knows, Do One?



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Hot, saxophone led, organ driven, bluesy funk/jazz. 9 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Acid Jazz, BLUES: Jazzy Blues
Details: CD REVIEW BY JOHN MARCUS; JAZZREVIEW.COM Myanna and a very talented group of world-class musicians cover a wide range of emotions and atmospheres on this incredible collection of songs. If I had to pick one song from this CD to give you an example of Myanna's strength on the saxophone, I would ask for two and try to slip in a third one. The best place to start is in the beginning. Myanna gives David Limina the honors of playing the first notes on the album. 47 seconds of sizzling Hammond B3 sets off a chain reaction of Jazz that sadly, has moments of silence between tracks. Such is the anticipation of the next number that I fast-forwarded just as each song ended to allow these folks to keep on playing. Myanna gives you the funky, the furious, and the flow, as she transitions through this recording. You want to have friends over for drinks? Going on a long drive? You want to spend a romantic evening with your soul-mate? How about your favorite Jazz station? I can see Myanna occupying all these spaces at once, because she's given us something for all occasions. Solos, exchanges, melodies, and most of all, FUN...interlaced within every note the band plays. Electrifying one moment, and soothing the next. "One Never Knows" what's coming from this classy and sexy lady. Although she's been in the game for a long time, pleasing crowds in the Northeast, this could be the one that finally gets her some well-deserved attention internationally. I certainly hope so. Keep on jammin, Myanna! CD REVIEW BY MARCIA HILLMAN; JAZZREVIEW.COM The operative word for Myanna's new CD is "enjoy". From start to finish, this CD has something enjoyable for everyone...audience and performers alike. The first track starts off with an organ intro, followed by the melody done by the ensemble. Then come the solos. A fun track. The organ and alto combo is sure to make you smile. "Intrepidation" is an original tune by Myanna (a combination of the words "intrepid" and "trepidation"). She starts off with a baritone sax solo and then

switches to alto sax. The third track is the James Brown classic "Cold Sweat", done in such a way that you can almost see him dancing around. Myanna does a lovely, sensitive rendition of another of her originals, "El Corazon Solo". This one is a bolero which features Myanna on soprano sax. "Chillin' at the Lake", another original, is a laid back blues with Myanna on alto and a bluesy guitar solo by Kevin Barry. "One World" is written with an African Soukous beat. It has a ballad feel with pretty work on alto. "For Illinois" is written by Myanna and dedicated to the late Illinois Jacquet. She plays this track on tenor, evoking Jacquet's sound. (Myanna credits Illinois Jacquet as a significant influence on her playing.) "Vintage Love" is the only vocal on this CD and is sung by its writer, Ed Scheer. He has a raspy, bluesy sound and the lyrics are old fashioned, double entendre which makes for a good chuckle. The last track is a road tune appropriately called "Road Rhythm". It features tenor sax and organ trading solos and a beat that will not stop. Bernard "Pretty" Purdie (who is the "world's most recorded drummer") is an exciting drummer and the tracks that he is on just explode with his energy. Everyone else falls into the groove and has a really good time. And that is the secret of this CD by Myanna. It makes you want to move, dance, smile and have a wonderful time.

BIOGRAPHY: In the 1970s and 1980s, it was very unusual for a woman to play saxophone. Then Myanna came along and made headlines! Now, almost three decades later Myanna is still making news with the release of her latest CD. Titled, *One Never Knows, Do One?* this disc is a solid jazz release . . . sure to garner critical attention. Illinois Jacquet, Sonny Rollins, Jimi Hendrix, and B.B. King were saxophonist Myanna Pontoppidan's core musical influences, beginning in her late teen years. Myanna grew up in Weston, Massachusetts and after graduation went on to Berklee College of Music in Boston where she studied with saxophonist Joe Viola. Her career soared early on; she sat in with Grover Washington, Jr., performed with Gray Sargent, Martha Reeves, Ronnie Specter, and the Platters, among others. After a stint at University of Massachusetts in Amherst (where she studied with Max Roach), Myanna sprinted off with the respected R&B Northampton-based band, "Lilith." The band relocated to Georgia for a while - near Atlanta, then moved to Boston. Myanna left that group in the late '70s and joined the Bill Bellamy Project - an original jazz/R&B band. In 1984, she, saxophonist Cercie Miller and singer Didi Stewart put Girls' Night Out together as a lark - playing '60s girl group songs. The band ended up staying together due to high demand - and added more and more originals, until it morphed into an original rock band that also played some oldies. Chris Hamel of the Springfield Morning Union described the band thus: "member for member and in total, one of the best rock acts that New

England has ever produced." "Girls' Night Out" was chosen as one of five finalists in Musician Magazine's 1986 national "Best Unsigned Band in America" contest. Around the time that Girls Night Out split up, Myanna not only joined another highly successful band called The Love Dogs, but she formed her own band. "There's nothing quite so satisfying as playing one's original music with a bunch of fine musicians," says Myanna. From the moment she and her band first stepped onto the musical stage, she and the band garnered widespread attention. She released her first CD, Myanna, and in 1992 she won the prestigious Boston Music Award for "Outstanding Local Jazz Act." She and the band were nominated again in 1994. Then the Myanna band went on to win the coveted Boston Phoenix/WFAX Best Music Poll as the "Best Local Jazz Act" in both 1994 and 1996. Along the way, Myanna set out to create an outlet for her growing wealth of original material. The pop-jazz style of her first CD, Myanna, evolved into a funky, danceable sound on her second, highly acclaimed release, After Hours, on the Bridge City label. Critics raved about both of Myanna's first two releases. Jon Garelick of the Boston Phoenix wrote, "There's a rhythmic acuity to her playing and a real sense of drama in her arrangements and songwriting." The Boston Globe's Steve Morse said, "She play(s) . . . with passion and clarity" while according to John Laughter, writing in the Saxophone Journal, [Myanna is] a "multi-talented individual" who "is gifted with imagination and the ability to express her ideas." One Never Knows, Do One?, Myanna's newest CD [release date, November 4] might just be the best yet. The title hints at the musical direction of this CD: from the sweeter, smoother jazz/funk to a hotter, organ-based R&B/jazz beat. At the heart of this new CD the bold funk/blues style of jazz is driven by the inimitable groove of world-renown drummer, Bernard Purdie. Eric Jackson, the respected host of WGBH's jazz show, Eric in the Evening, already has exclaimed, "This is exciting music that is full of passionate playing and good tunes." The CD and one of the tracks are dedicated to the late, great Illinois Jacquet, one of Myanna's most significant influences.

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