

Mp3 Amy Lee - Use Me



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Smooth Jazz / R&B / Funk / Reggae 10 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Smooth Jazz, URBAN/R&B: R&B Pop Crossover Details: Jazz saxophonist, composer and arranger Amy Lee has been on the national/international music scene since 1990. Her newly released solo CD titled USE ME (PPM 2004) marks her 2nd solo album and contains 7 original compositions and 3 covers including Bill Withers' Use Me as well as Stevie Wonder's Too Shy To Say. USE ME is filled with feel-good songs and soulful soloing that is unique to today's "Smooth Jazz" monotony. That's because Amy's years playing with Charles Neville of the Neville Brothers and Jimmy Buffett have brought to her palette a distinctive blend of jazz, funk and storytelling which is undeniably weaved into her music and playing. Producer/engineer Steve Schwartzberg also brings his pop/R&B skills to the project having worked with such artists as Toni Braxton, TLC, and Boyz II Men. The accomplished musicians backing Amy on USE ME have recorded with hundreds of artists including Earth, Wind Fire, Steely Dan, Marvin Gaye, Luther Vandross, David Sanborn, Kenny G, the Temptations, Quincy Jones, George Benson, David Bowie and Stevie Wonder. The resulting instrumental jazz-pop-soul mix on USE ME is incredibly fresh and fun. Amy Lee was born in North Adams, Massachusetts but left the New England cold to study music at the University of Miami. She became a fulltime Southerner residing in Atlanta, immersing herself into the city's budding music scene. A multitalented sax player, studio musician, composer and arranger, Amy has worked extensively with Charles Neville and Jimmy Buffett, and played as well with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, James Taylor and Joni Mitchell to name a few. Her debut indie CD Inside the Outside showcased her diverse musical talents as a player and writer. The album brings the listener into the realms of Amy's writing styles and playing, featuring songs ranging from contemporary and straight-ahead jazz to R&B. Her soulful "voice" is interspersed with her unique soloing and writing styles. "I'm somewhat of a chameleon,

catering to the different styles of songs I write. I have so much music in me! If I write a modal straight ahead tune, I play in that style, like something Wayne Shorter might play. If I write a funk pop tune I play for that style. I love artists Stevie Wonder and Luther Vandross so I write R&B tunes with them in mind." Her sound is unlike any other's - she has her own sound, her own voice and identity. She is not a copycat soloist. Pop, R&B, soul and jazz were all musical influences on Amy, who grew up in a household filled with the radio playing all day long. "When I was a child, my mom didn't have the TV on. She played the radio. Both of my parents aren't musicians themselves but they wanted their children to learn an instrument and this was possible thanks to the music programs available in public schools." Amy started playing sax at age 10. She went through the music system playing in concert band, jazz band and marching band through high school. She became a professional musician at age 16, joining the local musician's union and playing in big bands in North Adams. She won various district and state competitions through the school system. After high school it was a given Amy would study music in college. "Music was the only thing I did. Fortunately I did have good grades and the talent so I was awarded a music scholarship to study at the University of Miami. It's an extremely expensive school. I paid for that education on my own and worked 2 jobs while going to school while also playing in an off campus funk band. It was hard work but it made me realize I can do anything. I learned a lot of street smarts while living in Miami and playing in areas like Liberty City!" Upon graduation Amy moved to Atlanta. She played everywhere and anywhere she could, even on the streets. It wasn't long before she connected with Charles Neville of the Neville Brothers and began playing and arranging for his jazz group Diversity for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. "I played with Charles at Jazz Fest for six years. It was through him that I met and sat in with Jimmy Buffett. I continued to play with Charles for five more years while also touring with Jimmy. New Orleans was like my second home." Amy became a member of Buffett's band in 1991 and to date is still touring as a Coral Reefer. "My first year I was the only horn player with Jimmy. In '92 he put another sax and trumpet player with me and made me the leader/arranger for the section. In '93 Jimmy was putting together a sampler CD of various artists for his newly created record label, Margaritaville Records. He asked me to write something for the CD and I wrote a reggae tune called 'Sugartown Shakedown.' Also in that year I opened Jimmy's show for the whole touring season performing that tune with the Coral Reefer Band backing me. That was an incredible experience!" Amy soon became a co-writer with Buffett writing "Fruitcakes," "Delaney Talks to

Statues" along with Mac McAnally and "Bob Robert's Society Band." "Working with Jimmy has been an incredible learning experience. A lot of his music is simple story telling. As a soloist I've learned to keep it simple and have patience. You can't go throwing in the hottest licks just to prove a point. You have to create a marriage of your solo to his music. It has to make sense and complete his story and you may only have four bars to do it in so you better make it fit. Arranging for his music has been a blast. He is so diverse in his styles that one chart may dictate something like old-style R&B Memphis Horns and another may be for a salsa Cuban horn section. It was maybe through the years working with Jimmy that I decided to put out my first CD filled with many styles of jazz. There's a little bit of everything on Inside the Outside ." After Amy's debut indie release she continued to work with Buffett. "I tried to shop my CD but heard it was too straight-ahead or too smooth from the various labels. Of course, the beauty of doing an indie is that you can do whatever you want and not have a label dictate your voice. But I did find it to be hard to shop and even get distribution unfortunately." Amy's disc remains independent and is not available in stores but only online via her site AmyLeeSaxas well as CD Baby and Amazon. "The Internet is a wonderful resource and I have sold internationally. But with my 2nd solo album Use Me I am shooting for top!" Amy, a renaissance woman working in a typically male dominated field, knows her history whenever someone states how unusual it is for a female to play sax. "Women have been playing sax for decades! Look at all the wartime big bands for instance and the various artists out today! Sure it's difficult to prove yourself in the majors unfortunately. But hey, it's for everybody, male or female in this business!"

What Amy says about the look and sounds of her 2nd solo release Use Me : "With this project I am not stopping at anything - from the look, to the music. I used some incredible musicians and am extremely excited about this CD." Drummer Sonny Emory, percussionist Ralph MacDonald, bassist Ronnie Garrett, keyboardist Darrell Smith, tambourine player Jack Ashford, and guitarist John Raymond all play on the release, along with some of her band mates from the Coral Reefer Band, bassist Jim Mayer, guitarist Peter Mayer and drummer Roger Guth. "I have some of the best of the best playing on this CD, from Earth Wind and Fire's drummer to Kenny G's guitarist to Motown's tambourine player." Amy muses about the title track, Use Me , and the look of her 2nd release. "I covered Bill Withers' tune and it is so funky and happening I wanted to make it the title of the CD." Coupled with the look of the cover and insert, it radiates sex appeal. "All my life I've struggled with the fact of trying to get people to hear me as a sax player and not make a quick judgment just by the way I look. With my first solo release I was rebelling

over that whole thing, so I deliberately wore a tie dyed Tee shirt and had no makeup on. It finally dawned on me, I am who I am and I will show the world with pride that women can do anything, be anything and look however they want to. This time I'm presenting my feminine side. I'm not covering up my physique or the fact that I am a woman. I had an absolute ball participating in a real photo shoot and getting the look I wanted. I had a lot of fun making this CD and unmasking the image...to show the world that yes this woman can really play the sax!" Amy Lee Resume SOLO CD RELEASES Use Me - Amy Lee Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 Inside the Outside - Amy Lee Publick Ptomaine Music 1999

RECORDED/PUBLISHED MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS "Brite Eyes" - Amy Lee Use Me Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 "Coming Home" - Amy Lee Use Me Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 "In The Sun" - Amy Lee Use Me Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 "More To Love" - Amy Lee Use Me Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 "Traz Da Lua" - Amy Lee Use Me Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 "Why You Wanna" - Amy Lee Use Me Publick Ptomaine Music 2004 "Behind the Moon" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 Oasis Jazz Sampler Oasis Records 1999 "Consider This" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "In a Memory" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "Inside the Outside" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "Little Tortoise Shell" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "Lonely Summerwinds" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "Our Song" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "UD1000N" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "Zo Zo" - Amy Lee Inside the Outside Publick Ptomaine Music 1999 "Bob Robert's Society Band" - Jimmy Buffett, Amy Lee Banana Wind Margaritaville/MCA Records '94 - Certified Platinum Meet Me in Margaritaville Margaritaville/MCA Records '94 - Certified Multi-Platinum "Delaney Talks to Statues" - Jimmy Buffett, Mac McAnally, Amy Lee Fruitcakes Margaritaville/MCA Records '94 - Certified Platinum Parakeet Album Margaritaville/MCA Records '96 "Fruitcakes" - Jimmy Buffett, Amy Lee Fruitcakes Margaritaville/MCA Records '94 - Certified Platinum Great Summertime Fun with Jimmy Buffett Target Records '99 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays Mailboat Records 2000 - Certified Gold Meet Me in Margaritaville Margaritaville/MCA Records '94 - Certified Multi-Platinum "Sugartown Shakedown" - Amy Lee Margaritaville Caf Late Night Menu Margaritaville/MCA Records '93 CDs PERFORMING ON Meet Me at Margaritaville - Jimmy Buffett UTV/MCA/Mailboat Records 2003 Far Side of the World - Jimmy Buffett Mailboat Records 2002 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays - Jimmy Buffett Mailboat Records 2002 Someone to Lean On -

Luther Barnes and the Red Budd Gospel Choir Atlanta International Records '99 Calaloo - Jimmy Buffett
 Margaritaville/Island Records '99 Memorable Moments - Richard Smallwood Sparrow Records '99 Beach
 House on the Moon - Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville/Island Records '99 Oasis Jazz CD Sampler - "Behind
 the Moon" - Amy Lee Oasis Records '99 Don't Stop the Carnival - Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville/Island
 Records '98 Christmas Island - Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville/MCA Records '96 Banana Wind - Jimmy
 Buffett Margaritaville/MCA Records '96 A Live Celebration - Luther Barnes and the Sunset Jubilaries
 Atlanta International Records '95 Barometer Soup - Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville/MCA Records '95
 Fruitcakes - Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville/MCA Records '94 Fruitcakes - Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville/MCA
 Records '94 Nothing Can Be Better - Luther Barnes and the Sunset Jubilaries Atlanta International
 Records '93 Y'all So Stupid - Van Full of Pakistans Rowdy/Arista Records '93 Margaritaville Caf Late
 Night Menu - Various Artists Margaritaville/MCA Records '93 Portrait - Richard Smallwood Singers Word
 Inc./A&M Records '90 TELEVISION Performing with Jimmy Buffett the Coral Reefer Band NBC -The
 Tonight Show with Jay Leno '94, '95, '99, '02, '03; The Today Show '94, '97, '99, '04; The Tonight Show
 with Johnny Carson '92 CBS -The Late Show with David Letterman '94 '96 ABC -In Concert
 (Syndication) '94 A&E -Best of In Concert '94 Showtime -Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert '92 Other
 performances: BET -History of Afro-American Music Performing with Charles Neville Diversity
 Syndication '91 International -JVC Corp. Compilation of New Orleans Jazz Heritage Festival Performing
 with Charles Neville Diversity - Japanese Syndication '90 MUSIC VIDEOS "Hey Good Lookin" - Jimmy
 Buffett the Coral Reefer Band Mailboat Records/MCA '04 "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" - Alan Jackson
 with Jimmy Buffett the Coral Reefer Band Arista Records '03 "Another Saturday Night"- Jimmy Buffett
 the Coral Reefer Band Margaritaville/MCA '93 "Let The Good Times Roll - A Film About The Roots of
 American Music" - Performing with Charles Neville Diversity and Jimmy Buffett Island Visual
 Arts/Polygram '92 _____ REVIEW From
allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=14860 Use Me Amy Lee | Publick Ptomaine Music With Use Me ,
 Decatur, Georgia-based multi instrumentalist Amy Lee presents a collection of ten tunes that further
 solidify a connection between contemporary "light" jazz and R&B/soul/funk. Her new recording has all of
 the hallmarks that identify her music with the popular jazz style-very precise production with multiple
 layers of electronically and acoustically generated sounds; tight, funky bass lines and other rhythm tracks
 that lock in a solid groove; and Lee's saxophone, full of soulful sounds inspired by the vocal inflections

and styling of great blues and soul singers. A further connection to her music as "instrumental soul," however, is perhaps best exemplified in that her repertoire draws directly upon two great sources of 1970s R&B/soul, Bill Withers and Stevie Wonder. The title cut is Lee's instrumental cover of the classic song "Use Me," recorded by Withers in 1972. She does a formidable job here covering the melody-so much so that you can almost hear her sax "singing" Withers' lyrics. Like a bookend, Lee chooses to close her recording with Stevie Wonder's "Too Shy to Stay." Her version is quite interesting and innovative, with the accompaniment of pedal steel guitar, which gives a haunting background to Lee's delicate yet throaty tenor saxophone. Amy Lee is also a creative composer, having written six of the tunes on Use Me . Of the six, one tune that stands apart from the others is the bossa nova "Traz Da Lua." Sung in Portuguese by vocalist Alice Genereux, the piece has that romantic yet genteel, laid back, cool-as-an-evening-breeze approach that makes us fond of Brazilian music. Lee's flute solo, albeit brief, and her instrumental comments behind the vocals certainly continue the smooth, mellow vibe brought on by this tune. The Jamaican reggae rhythm-inspired piece "Brite Eyes" is also one that stands out to this listener. Lee also demonstrates her talents as a multi-instrumentalist, playing three different saxophones and trombone on the tune. Amy Lee's Use Me is recommended for listeners who enjoy the funky yet smooth sounds of contemporary "light" jazz. Craig W. Hurst

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