

Album Reviews

Michael Karr - *Live with Michael Karr & Friends* by Patrick Ross Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Live with Michael Karr & Friends is a 40+ minute musical excursion through some classic Jazz standards, and features some exemplary playing and soloing that is both relaxing and enjoyable. There are numerous fine solo performances sprinkled through this five-song set on piano, trumpet, guitar, and saxophone. Karr's trumpet style is both fluid and mellifluous, and evocatively romantic on the cuts "Nancy" and "September in the Rain." Backed by a tight and perfunctory rhythm section of bass, drums, percussion, and horns. Guitarist Jimmy Ponder bluesy signature style takes center stage on the classic "Since I Fell For You", which also features the

musicianship of supporting players Karr on trumpet, the energetic piano of Howard Alexander, James Johnson Jr. III on drums, Gene Richard Austin on percussion, and Dave Pellow on bass. Rounding out the set is the effervescent Horace Silvers classic standard "Song For My Father", which serves also a fitting tribute to Silvers legacy. The playing is both flamboyant and stylish and shows the fine musicianship of these New York Jazz players who proudly carry the torch in these contemporary arrangements as they cover some the most well know standards of the Jazz era. So if you are a Jazz fan or enthusiast, or maybe you are just discovering the music for the first time and don't know where to begin. Michael Karr & friends is a good starting point in the world of straight ahead Jazz classics.

<http://www.michaelkarr.com>