

Saxophonics

Francesco Bearzatti Tinissima 4et, *This Machine Kills Fascists* (CamJazz 7893; 48:28 ★★★★★) In what must be one of the more unorthodox tributes to great American folk icon Woody Guthrie, the versatile Italian saxophonist Francesco Bearzatti tips his head and hat towards Guthrie with a set of original songs with the subject in mind. With *This Machine Kills Fascists* (so named for a phrase Guthrie wrote on his guitar), Bearzatti creates an evocative sound world, from the gospel-colored "Okemah" to the song-slinging of "Long Train Running." Vocalist Petra Magoni cameos on "One For Sacco And Vanzetti" and the song set closes with the sole Guthrie-penned tune, the classic "This Land Is Your Land," done up Bearzatti-on-Bourbon-Street style. A landscape of Americana intriguingly filtered through jazz *Italiana*.

Ordering info: camjazz.com

Dave Wilson Quartet, *There Was Never* (Zoho 201512; 65:34 ★★)

With his fourth album, Dave Wilson, on tenor and soprano saxophones, puts a strong foot forward, backed by a tight and raring-to-go rhythm section of young pianist Bobby Avey, bassist Tony Marino and drummer Alex Ritz. From the tricky, pulsing energy of the opening "The Time Has Come," on which the saxophonist brandishes his big tone and easily tumbling facility, to the simple folk theme of "On The Prairie," *There Was Never* makes a varied and mostly powerful impact.

Ordering info: zohomusic.com

Nicole Glover, *First Record* (Self Release; 46:34 ★★½) In the notes for her impressive debut album, the young Oregon-based saxophonist Nicole Glover name-checks the great Wayne Shorter, recalling his advice to her to become a "leader" and an "individual." As is evident on this eight-track song set, Glover took that advice to heart, carving out a sound all her own while capturing certain Shorter-esque touches along the way. Her cool, probing sense of phrasing and conceptual breathing gives her solos distinction.

Ordering info: nicoleglover.com

Mark Hauser Quartet, *It's All About The Journey* (betersound;



Nicole Glover

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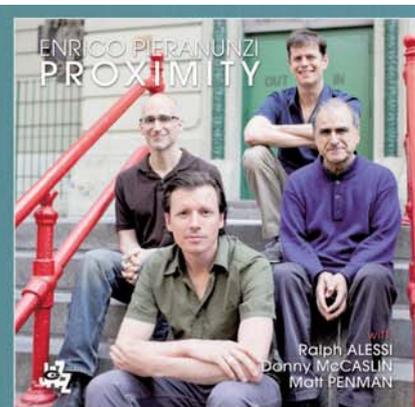
63:15 ★★★★★) Swiss alto saxophonist/reed player Markus (aka Mark) Hauser gets around, stylistically and in terms of his varied life in music. At various times he's been a sideman, bandleader, educator and even designer of mouthpieces. His long list of collaborators includes Billy Joel, Airto Moreira and New Orleans drummer Johnny Vidacovich, and he has channeled his long, influential love of Art Pepper into a 2006 album, *A Tribute To Art Pepper*. Not surprisingly, hints of his affiliations and affinities tend to weave through the tracks of his latest album. Shades of Pepper shine through the fiery cool energies of this disc.

Ordering info: markhauser.ch

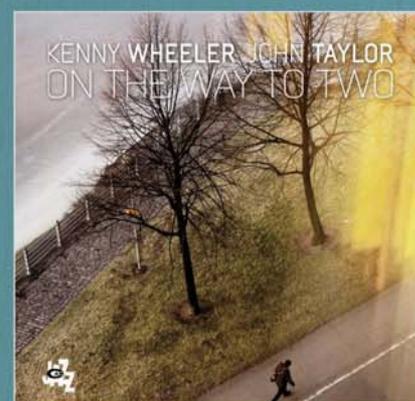
Kirsten Edkins, *Art & Soul* (Self Release; 48:54 ★★½) Kirsten Edkins, a strong saxophone voice from the West Coast, shows her strengths and versatility on *Art & Soul*. Along the way, Edkins, sounding assured and adventurous-within-limits on tenor, soprano and alto, showcases some of the finer jazz players hailing from Southern California, including former mentor (and the album's producer) Bob Shepard, pianist/B-3 master Larry Goldings and guitarist Larry Koonse. At times, Koonse sidles up to the leader's voice, in classic tenor/guitar melodic muscle fashion reminiscent of the Scofield/Lovano team spirit.

While her writing reflects an awareness of contemporary jazz notions, we also get a sense of historical grounding in deeply-rooted jazz idioms, from the soul-jazz of opener "Big B" to the Horace Silver-esque hard-bop of "No Ordinary Joe" (dedicated to another important California-based musician, drummer Joe La Barbera). *Art & Soul*, amply blessed with technical prowess, innate swing and more, is a robust debut statement worth celebrating. **DB**

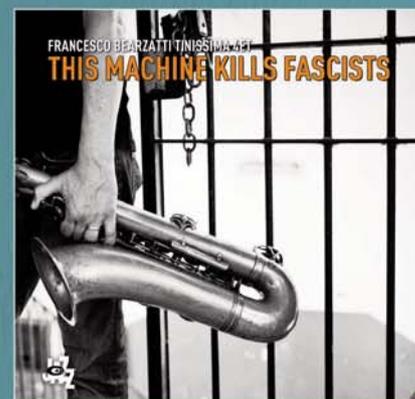
Ordering info: kirstenedkins.com



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