

## Review of the Dave Wilson Quartet CD *One Night At Chris'*

An excellent tenor and soprano-saxophonist, Dave Wilson has long had his own sound. While well versed in bop and inspired by Dexter Gordon and John Coltrane, Wilson is not shy to take his improvisations a bit outside when it fits the music.

*One Night At Chris'*, which was recorded live at Chris' Jazz Café in Philadelphia in March 2018, is the saxophonist's fifth album as a leader and first live recording. Joined by pianist Kirk Reese, bassist Tony Marino, and drummer Dan Monaghan, Dave Wilson performs four originals, "Summertime," and four songs from the pop music world, turning everything into creative jazz.

The opener, "Ocean Blues, is a joyful medium-tempo boogaloo, one that is bluesy while not quite being a blues with Wilson's expressive playing sounding inspired by the catchy tune. He switches to soprano on the Grateful Dead's "Friend Of The Devil," an infectious treatment that includes a particularly inventive piano solo from Reese. After the familiar melody of the Beatles' "Norwegian Wood" is played, Wilson takes the song to some unexpected places during his improvisation as does bassist Marino.

One would not normally expect songs by Creed and Ambrosio on a jazz album. But just as Sonny Rollins used to take unlikely material and embrace their melody, Wilson digs with affection into the funky "My Own Prison" while transforming "Biggest Part Of Me" into a new piece altogether. His original "Movin' On" has one of the saxophonist's more passionate solos of the set, making an intense statement that sounds different than any of his predecessors.

Brian Wilson's "God Only Knows" is taken as a lyrical vehicle for Dave Wilson's soprano. The rollicking uptempo "Untitled Modal Tune" sounds like a piece that John Coltrane might have played but Wilson's tenor sounds quite individual. *One Night At Chris'* concludes with the two longest performances. "Summertime" is taken for a fresh and rather stormy ride by the quartet while the cooking "Spiral" has a concise spot for Monaghan and another powerful solo from the leader.

*One Night At Chris'* is one of Dave Wilson's most memorable recordings thus far, and serves as an excellent introduction to his playing.

Scott Yanow, jazz journalist/historian