



JEFF BARONE – OPEN UP

Jazzed Media JM1033

Jeff Barone	guitar
Ron Oswanski	B-3 organ
Rudy Petschauer	drums
Joe Magnerelli	trumpet
Mike Dubaniewicz	alto sax
Jack Wilkins	guitar

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Jeff Barone's career on the NYC jazz scene has been a diverse one. From his early start in the 1990's with the Harlem organ groups of Jimmy "Preacher" Robins, Mel Davis, Rahn Burton and Reuben Wilson to performances with Tom Harrell, Bob Mintzer, the Village Vanguard Orchestra, the BMI Jazz Orchestra as well as his own groups, Barone has proven himself to be a veteran leader and sideman. Barone showed that he was also an accomplished composer and arranger with the release of his well received debut recording *Crazy Talk* in 2003. This past June Barone released his second CD as a leader entitled *Open Up*.

Barone assembled a group of long time friends and collaborators for the recording of *Open Up*. Ron Oswanski (B-3 organ), Rudy Petschauer (drums), Joe Magnerelli (trumpet), Mike Dubaniewicz (alto sax), and Jack Wilkins (co-producer/ guitarist) assist Barone in providing an inspired collection of music. Of the twelve tracks appearing on *Open Up*, Barone penned four with the remaining being arrangements of standards (*Falling In Love With Love*, *Here's That Rainy Day*, *I Hear Music*) and "modern" jazz compositions (Herbie Hancock's *Toys* and Denny Zeitlin's *Quiet Now*). With the majority of the album being centered on trio, quartet and quintet instrumentation, Barone performs a wonderful solo arrangement of *My Funny Valentine* as well as pairing with Jack Wilkins for two duo performances (*Jenna's Song* and *Quiet Now*).

Whether you are already a fan of Barone or a newcomer to his work, *Open Up* offers solid performances from start to finish that will not disappoint the listener. Barone has succeeded in turning in another fine effort that is worth listening to time and time again.

* Reviewed by Chip Henderson