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recordings

Joseph Carter III In the Now

Hey, did anyone happen to catch Ken Burns' epic, ten-part documentary about Jazz? Did any one happen to notice how woefully remiss he was when it came to Jazz guitarists? Most of the genre's giants garnered nary a mention. Too bad too, because during the early '60s, six-string mavericks like Grant Green, Kenny Burrell and Wes Montgomery were playing some of the hardest swinging soulful jazz to ever make the scene. One person who was giving heed to the legends of that era was Brooklyn native Joseph Carter. On his latest release *In The Now* Carter shows himself to be a learned master of the jazz guitar lexicon as well as a composer with a modern edge all his own. *In The Now's* seven original compositions are the perfect balance between downtown and down-home: there's plenty of sophisticated harmonies and complex rhythmic interplay, but the music never strays too far from its bluesy roots. Even the addition of a classical chamber quintet on the title cut is handled with taste and melodicism. This is some seriously fine jazz. **A**

VINCENT DeMASI