

Spotlight

by
Jim Hilmar

ATTENTION JAZZ GUITAR

FANS: New York native Joseph Carter III has a very fine debut CD available. *Straight Ahead Backwards* (on Velvet Swan Music CD VS-001) features some excellent writing and playing in the mainstream jazz style. The seven songs on this project (which were all written by Joseph) include varying elements of mainstream jazz, jazz/blues and bebop and I found all of them engaging listening. The basic lineup is a very talented trio: Joseph (on guitar), Stu Waters (keyboards) and veteran Walter Perkins (drums). A bassist is present on six of the tracks and trumpet is featured on one. Joseph's tasty jazz/blues sound is up front on "Waiting On You" and "The King Charles Shuffle" (which features a nice groove). In addition to his fine writing skills, one of Joseph's strong points is his ability to play perfectly appropriate parts and solos. I'm especially fond of his work on "Peaches" (a very catchy Tal Farlow sounding piece with fine, melodic solo work), the very cool title track (which includes trumpet and features a lot of very interesting musical twists) and "Clickety Track" (very tasty jazz/blues work). A tip-of-the-hat to everyone involved in this project and I definitely look forward to hearing a lot more from Joseph. *Straight Ahead Backwards* is available in many Tower Records and Borders Books and Music stores. Or you can order direct from Velvet Swan Music, 370 W. 58th Street Suite 2-I, New York, NY 10019, or call (212) 246-3739.