



### JOSEPH CARTER III

In the Now

Velvet Swan Music

Back in '96, Carter released a wonderful album of straight jazz called *Straight Ahead Backwards*. This one duplicates the magic of that one and adds some more to the mix. While it's safe to say Carter's a jazzier, there's also some very nice music here that could be called "soul music" in the truest sense. In fact, a couple of cuts like "Goodbye My Love" bring to mind the late, great Eric Gale. It's got killer changes and chops galore. Just a really beautiful song.

For those who like to keep it upbeat,

"Inside Out" is a swinging minor blues that showcases Carter's chops. It's all rolled into one on this cut - speed, taste, and imagination. "Summer Song" is a Latin-style piece with some more dead-on single-line soloing and a nice chord solo in the middle. "Baby Sweets" is a big-time shuffle that will keep you smilin' and tappin' the whole six minutes. And, for something a little off the beaten track, how about the title cut, a chamber piece of sorts that is a little free and challenges the listener a bit. And, traditionalists will love "Hey Bubba," which calls to mind the Bobby Timmons classic, "Moanin'."

Carter has again proven himself a world-class jazzier. Hopefully some exposure outside his home of New York will follow. Velvet Swan, 370 West 58th St., Suite 24, New York, NY 10019. - JH