

SKANNER
PORTLAND, OR
WEEKLY 21.000

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ARTS &

L.A. JAZZ SCENE

LANNY MORGAN

Pacific Standard
(Contemporary)

Lanny Morgan's recordings as a leader occur so infrequently that virtually every one could be titled "It's About Time!" One of the great bebop altoists of the past 30 years (I'd love to hear him teamed with Phil Woods or Richie Cole), Morgan can always be relied upon to enthusiastically dig into standards preserving the melodies and chord changes but coming up with consistently fresh variations.

On this Contemporary set, Morgan is joined by three of L.A.'s finest (pianist Tom Ranier, bassist Dave Carpenter and drummer Joe LaBarbera) who give him stimulating and swinging support. Lanny mostly sticks to well-known standards but somehow they sound new. "Stella By Starlight" is taken much faster than normal (which helps the usually overplayed song), "In The Still Of The Night" cooks, "Body and Soul" is his ballad feature, "Spring Can Really Haug You Up The Most" is turned into a fast samba and a blazing "It's You Or No One" wraps up the ten-song session. There is not a throwaway track or routine moment in the 67-minutes of music.

Lanny Morgan's quartet date is highly recommended to straightahead jazz fans. Hopefully the release of this CD will result in the underrated altoist finally reaching a wider audience beyond his followers in L.A.

—Scott Yanow



DICK BOGIE

Dick's Picks

- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★ Very good
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Fair
- ★ Poor

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Rev

PACIFIC STANDARD
The Lanny Morgan
Quartet
(Contemporary)
★★★★

Alto saxophonist Lanny Morgan lays out a scrumptious buffet of great classics and then digs into each of them with respect, maturity and swinging creativity. But Morgan isn't the entire show. Pianist Tom Ranier is leagues ahead of many better known keyboardists and the rhythm section of bassist Dave Carpenter and drummer Joe LaBarbera keep everything moving.

One of the highlights is Morgan's up-tempo treatment of "The Song Is You." The Getz-Sims influence is loud and clear, but is not copied.

Other selections include: "In The Still of The Night," "People Will Say We're In Love," "Stella By Starlight," "Broadway," "I'll Remember April," "It's You Or No One" and "Rosalie."