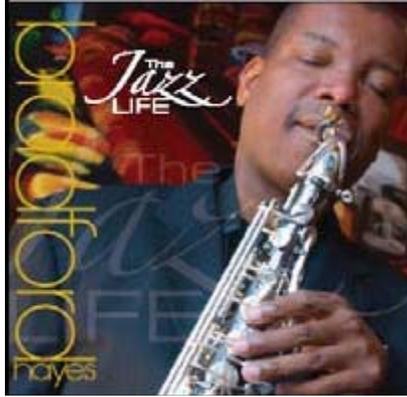


Featured Artist: Bradford Hayes



CD Title: The Jazz Life

Year: 2007

Record Label: Intensity Music, Inc.

Style: Contemporary Jazz

Musicians: Bradford Hayes (saxophone), Duane Eubanks (trumpet), Cornell McGhee (trombone), Michael Cochrane (piano), Calvin Jones (bass), Greg Searvance (drums)

Review: *The Jazz Life*, as interpreted by Bradford Hayes, sounds like a joy; a wondrous exploration of Mr. Hayes' experiences in life, love, family and music. These revelations are communicated in first-rate form through Bradford Hayes' cool alto saxophone phrases. Mr. Hayes is joined by an exceptional cast of accompanists that provide solid support and spirited solos when called upon to share their musical thoughts. The recording is comprised of eleven tracks, some originals, a couple of jazz standards and a tribute to a master, "Black Nile" by Wayne Shorter.

The spirit of the band shines brightly on the track, "Black Nile," inspirational solos by Bradford Hayes on alto and Duane Eubanks on trumpet. The rhythm section cooks, propelled by the swinging drumming of Greg Searvance.

Bradford Hayes tributes the first track of the CD, "Tunji's Blues," to his long time employer, Nigerian master percussionist, Babatunde Olatunji (1927-2003). The song is a swinging tune composed by Mr. Hayes that flies from start to finish, with strong playing by Cornell McGhee on trombone, Michael Cochrane on piano and Calvin Jones on bass.

The song "Bianca's Dance," dedicated to Mr. Hayes's daughter, is performed with a Latin flavor. The drummer, Greg Searvance, lays down a fast tempo samba-clave rhythm, and the rest of the rhythm section swings along while Bradford Hayes blows up a storm of lyrical lines with free flowing fluidity.

The standards are played with a classical beauty and a poise that speaks volumes on the musician's love of the art form. "The Nearness of You," at three minutes, is priceless in terms of an incredible musical statement produced in a limited space. "Whisper Not," The Benny Golson classic, is treated to six and a half minutes of fine soloing by Mr. Hayes and wonderful piano treats by Mr. Cochrane.

Bradford Hayes has produced a very swinging jazz CD in *The Jazz Life*, mostly excellent songs performed by great musicians, giving a spirited heartfelt performance. For an easy listening taste of cool, contemporary jazz – good music for your spirit, check out *The Jazz Life*. As Mr. Hayes puts it, "Please sit back and enjoy."

Tracks: Tunji's Blues, Carolyn, Black Nile, My Sons, The Coaster, The Desert, Bianca's Dance, The Nearness of You, Whisper Not, One Little Indian, Holistic Invention

Artist's Website: <http://www.bradfordhayes.com>

Reviewed by: [Paul J. Youngman](#)