

Bradford Hayes,
“THE JAZZ LIFE”, Intensity Music, LLC
Reviewed by: Jean Szlamowicz
For Jazz Hot Magazine (Paris, France)
April 2007

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

Thanks to Daoud-David Williams and the Spirit of Life Ensemble, we discovered this beautiful artist living in New Jersey (USA) who has released his second recording, after “Bianca’s Dance”. There is no doubt that his new one is much more accurate and coherent than the previous one. It is more in “focus” as the American musicians would say. Amid a strong sextet and Hayes’ compositions some of which were arranged by Radam Schwartz. This recording gives us the opportunity to listen to the younger brother of Kevin(g) and Robin(tb) Eubanks, resounding and charming at the same time. The rhythm is tense with temperance due to Michael Cochrane who personifies efficiency and distinction. On the other hand Greg Searvance is a beautiful discovery in a teeming genre he keeps under control. Bradford Hayes had Baba Olatunji as an employer. His accents are influenced by Coltrane, his lyricism is harsh in the line of Jackie Mclean or James Spaulding. Bradford is at his best on melodic and up beat tempo tunes such as “The Coaster” by Grachan Moncur III and Wayne Shorter’s “Black Nile”. There are some nice compositions of his own, such as “The Desert” in which Eubanks sounds like Lee Morgan. “Holistic Invention” is a good smooth Jazz tune very nicely done though it does not quite match with the hard bop tempo sound of this record. This recording shows one more that little known musicians have great personalities and a solid musical expression. That’s what makes Jazz rich.