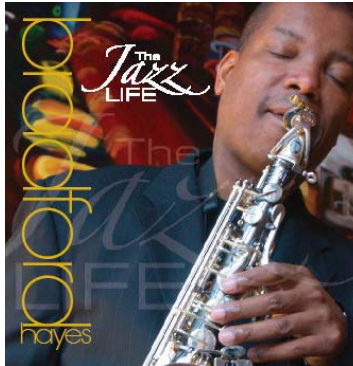


BRADFORD HAYES

“The Jazz Life” (Intensity Music)



Bradford Hayes is an altoist whose tone recalls Phil Woods and Richie Cole but also the intensity of Jackie McLean. Although a fixture on the New York and Northeastern U.S. jazz scenes for two decades, both as a musician and as an educator (performing with Olantunji, Jimmy Heath, Al Grey, Cecil Payne, Ray Bryant and Dr. Lonnie Smith), Hayes deserves much more recognition. His hard bop style looks back towards 1960s jazz while also containing enough surprises to be looking forward at the same time.

On *The Jazz Life*, Hayes heads a sextet that also includes trumpeter Duane Eubanks, trombonist Cornell McGhee, pianist Michael Cochrane, bassist Calvin Jones and drummer Greg Searvance. Hayes and his musicians perform seven of his diverse originals, a tune a piece by Cochrane, Searvance, Grachan Moncur III, and Wayne Shorter plus “Whisper Not” and a beautiful melody reading of “The Nearness Of You.” The music always swings, it is never predictable and there is plenty of spirited solo space for the horns and pianist Cochrane. Even the closing “Holistic Invention,” an attempt at playing “smooth jazz,” is creative and lyrical. Fans of Art Blakey’s *Jazz Messengers* will certainly enjoy the music overall and yet it is not a copy of the past but a strong example of hard bop for the 21st century.

The *Jazz Life* is easily recommended and available from
www.bradfordhayes.com.

Scott Yanow
LOS ANGELES JAZZ SCENE
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