

Reviews for Donald Harrison's "Quantum Leap"

"Donald Harrison is once again blazing a new trail for jazz with 'Quantum Leap'; real innovation grounded in swing and the personal vision of one of the music's true masters."

Brian Lynch - Trumpet Icon

"Completely fresh and amazing. I have never heard anything like it before and I like it a lot."

Felipe Melo - Portuguese Young Piano Titan

"Thank you, finally something new." Audience member at a performance in San Francisco after hearing, "Quantum Leap."

"Donald Harrison always finds ways to present innovative music that looks to the future but retains the vital essence of the history of Jazz. Donald's composition "Quantum Leap" illustrates how he can combine complex meters and form without sacrificing swing and groove. Donald and his band can make the most challenging music feel as natural as the blues."

Bill Pierce - Tenor Saxophone Icon

Donald Harrison is one of my favorite saxophonists. He has the history of the instrument in his playing while continuing to forge onward with his unique voice. I am always inspired by Donald because of his ability to incorporate his musical environment in regards to the various musical settings he finds himself apart of. Yes, I am a fan!!

Javon Jackson - Young Tenor Saxophone Titan

"WOW. This music swings and grooves. Donald Harrison has a unique knack for mixing rhythms to come up with something fresh for the musician and the listener alike. I'll be stealing and incorporating some of the rhythmic ideas for myself and my students. Very fresh and exciting stuff from Donald Harrison once again"

Carl Allen - Drum Icon and Artistic Director of Jazz studies at The Julliard School of Music

Musician Review:

The initial thing that hits me on a visceral level is that this music is rich in the blues and it swings. It's my personal opinion that those are the two most important and profound elements -- the jumping off point--in jazz music.

The melody line, a sort of wake up call, is intense; my ears perked and it captured my attention immediately, knowing that something great was going to follow. It's got a medium groove tempo that draws you in, with a nice pocket straight off. Because the rhythm section is settled you can access the interplay or conversation that is happening between the musicians. This is a high point for listeners and again is a must for modern jazz playing.

I hear the be bop influence right away. I know Mr. Harrison is prolific and eloquent playing any part of the history of jazz, blues, be bop, post bop etc. whenever it strikes him, according to what's going on in his musical environment. While the tradition is alive in this performance, it's in the moment and forward looking, simultaneously. I can hear the modern influences of Miles, Monk, Herbie, Wayne, Coltrane -- to name a few--but I also detect some Bird and Stitt underneath. I like that; a grup that is not stuck in one time period trying to prove a point, which seems to be happening a lot these days in jazz music.

The drummer Joe Dyson swings throughout, he's laying a great pocket and feel, while at the same time keeping things in a modern vein by commenting on what is being said by the soloists. Again, they engage in that most important open dialogue. The bassist swings and the pianist is searching and probing for uncharted waters, and not just settling for obvious choices. I dug it.

Five Stars, you guys.

Mike Clark - Drum Legend