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Artist :: [Calvin Keys](#)
Album :: [Standard Keys](#)
Year :: [1997](#)
Label :: [LifeForceJazz](#)
Review by :: [Wes Gillespie](#)



Calvin Keys has played many styles of music including Gospel, Blues, Pop, Country and even more modern Hip Hop but his preferred flavour is jazz and together with his bassist Tim Hauf and drummer Bob Braye offer a delightful album in the early George Benson, Kenny Burrell, Barney Kessel, Herb Ellis vein.

This is a live recording performed at the Big Basin Academy of Art and Music in Saratoga, California which created by Michael Briseno ably assisted by Dawan Muhammad who established this venue where students and teachers alike could come and blend in what is described as, 'a serene and natural environment'

Calvin has chosen some interesting material for the album with McCoy Tyner's 'Blues On The Corner' an almost eleven minute extravaganza synonymous with a live performance and has a very Kenny Burrell feel to it. Like Burrell, Calvin has also played with organ maestro Jimmy Smith.

His version of Antonio Carlos Jobim 'Once I loved' is magnificent with a solo guitar intro meandering to a mid tempo rendition of this bossa classic with intricate improvised chord structures and a wonderful bass solo from Tim Hauf.

Calvin tackles Miles' 'The Theme' in fine style with a series of lightning fast riffs in the Wes Montgomery or Mundell Lowe mould and his interpretation of Freddie Hubbard's signature tune 'Little Sunflower' which highlights some magical counterpart between guitar and bass reminiscent of the arrangement with Hubbard and Al Jarreau on vocal duties

Calvin has penned two tracks on the set, the opening 'Abdullah' which is a mid tempo 'scene setter' with progressive chord patterns and the all too short beautiful ballad, 'Marella' which is in the style of Benson's cover of the Lennon and McCartney classic 'Here, There and Everywhere'.

Similar Style Guide ::

Kenny Burrell
Barney Kessel
Bireli Legrane
Mundell Lowe
Herb Ellis
George Benson
Wes Montgomery

Website ::

lifeforcejazz.com

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Awaiting information

A thirteen minute version of Ann Ronnell's classic 'Willow Weep For Me' completes the selections recorded over two memorable nights by one of country's finest jazz guitarists. Comparable with those early Benson album, Bad Benson, White Rabbit and Cookbook of the late 60's / early 70's.

I believe that a 'live' guitar trio has to work so much harder than most line-ups and it takes an extremely talented and competent guitarist to retain the interest of the listener whilst trying to combine the melody with chord structure and interplay with the rhythm section. The choice of material is paramount and I think Calvin Keys talent has provided another 'classic guitar' album which will delight purists and enhance his own reputation.