



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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Mr. Wilson Somers  
2817 Ambler Court  
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Dear Wilson,

It is my pleasure to write this Review of your latest CD, "Avalon Serenade".

Sincerely yours,

Michael Arenson  
Professor, Music Theory  
University of Delaware  
Past-President, Delaware Unit, International Association for Jazz Education

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Wilson Somers is a very accomplished jazz pianist. It is always a pleasure to hear his inventive interpretations of the standards. For example, "Nardis" is beautifully voiced and is true to Miles Davis' original conception but with a sensitive airy introduction. Joani Somers' delightful voice along with Wilson's fine vocal harmony on "Our Love Is Here To Stay" is a fitting last track to an excellent CD.

Wilson's original compositions are both melodically and harmonically rich. The introduction/interlude to "New Day" is reminiscent of the introduction to the Billy Joel tune "Just the Way You Are" but with an exciting twist. The jazz waltz, "Sandpiper," is a relaxed piece....without the frantic pace of many jazz waltzes. "Avalon Pier" shows off Wilson's great piano voicings. "Jumpin' Jitterbug" is a delightful shuffle blues. Bassist Bill Stumm and drummer Joe Mongillo add the important underpinning that makes the tune really swing. The interjection of 3/4 in the 4/4 feel in "Highlighted Rhythm" illustrates how Wilson can play with rhythm in a subtle way.

Every member of the Wilson Somers Trio is important to the success of the "Avalon Serenade" project. Bill Stumm is one of the finest bassists on the East Coast. His solo on "All the Things You Are" is magical. Joe Mongillo is a drummer of impeccable taste. He is equally facile on ballads, fast tunes, waltzes and Latin tunes. The three musicians together create beautiful sounds. This CD is a must for any jazz aficionado's collection.