

Review "Open Up"

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Robert Silverstein

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In addition to featuring performance and production by jazz guitar ace **Jack Wilkins** on a pair of tracks, the 2008 CD from NYC guitarist Jeff Barone features him in the studio backed up by a number of fine players. Featuring twelve instrumental tracks, Open Up is uptown jazz at it's best. The CD matches technique and Barone's smokin' instro jazz guitar improvisational skills. Growing up in the Upstate, N.Y. Syracuse area, Barone grew up on a musical diet that featured Oscar Peterson and Joe Pass. On Open Up, Barone masterfully combines original instrumental compositions with covers of masters like Herbie Hancock, Denny Zeitlin, Frank Loesser and Jacque Brel.