

Review "Open Up"

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Audiophile Audition
May 5, 2008

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"No Longer a well kept secret"

Jeff Barone has largely been unknown outside of the jazz circles of New York's jazz scene. Thanks to Jazzed [Media's](#) Graham Carter; and fellow jazz cohort and co-producer, Jack Wilkins, Barone's CD, *Open Up*, should get Jeff some well-deserved exposure.

Wilkins plays on two guitar duets with Barone: *Jenna's Song* and *Quiet Now*. They are both introspective and feature a quite beautiful interaction between Barone and Wilkins. *Jenna's Song* uses a bit of Chopin's *Nocturne No. 2 in E-Flat Major* at the beginning of the composition, whereas *Quiet Now*, was written by the great pianist, Denny Zeitlin. It became a staple of Bill Evans' repertoire. Both tracks are gorgeous.

The rest of the CD is a bit more up-tempo-such as the hard boppish, *Duban's Groove*, which features some stylish alto sax by Mike Dubaniewicz, and choruses by the brilliant trumpeter, Joe Magnarelli. *New Samba's* groove shows Barone on nylon string guitar and Magnarelli on flugelhorn. The Brazilian themed *If You Go Away* is a Jacque Brel composition and the Hammond B-3 chorus is a nice complement. The standard *Falling in Love with Love* is taken both up-tempo and laid back in the master take and the alternate take respectively.

Herbie Hancock's *Toys* (from his early Blue Note recording, *Speak Like a Child*) features Magnarelli's warm tone in a swinging version. I liked both the use of the Hammond B-3 in place of a piano, as well as Barone's blues licks. Barone and [company](#) provide a great mix of moods and this CD comes highly recommended.

