

Review "Open Up"

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Susan Frances

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Jazz guitarist Jeff Barone has an elegant way about his playing that makes his phrases move like liquid incense radiating of perfumed fields that ease you into a reposing state. Tracks from his second album *Open Up* like "New Samba" and "My Funny Valentine" have a romantic aroma, while tunes like "Toys" and "I Hear Music" show a vivacious side of Barone with bridled fun, frolicking phrases and clips of uptempo modality. Though Barone maintains a smooth jazz standard on most of the tracks from *Open Up* notably for "Jenna's Song," he does shake things up here and there which changes the flame burning in its hearth. His two versions of "Falling In Love With Love" show the frisky, collar-loosened side of Barone at first, and then the sedate bedtime side of him on the second. Barone puts the listener in a very gentle and civilized frame of mind whether its letting loose and having fun or resting serenely. He knows the in's and out's of playing with tender fingers and lukewarm tonality but most of all, he is mindful of the other instrument parts and making harmonious music with them for the listener's enjoyment.