

Bird is the Worm

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Recommended: Tara Davidson – “Duets”



The most compelling aspect of *Duets* is the way saxophonist [Tara Davidson](#) is able to corral six different duo collaborations, each with their own distinct personality, into a cohesive presentation, while still allowing each of the personalities to fully display their individual traits.

The congenial warmth elicited from the three duets with pianist **David Braid** offers up the brightest spots on this bright album. Each is a lively conversation delivered with a casual ease. Sharp melodicism is enhanced with the occasional burst of effusiveness and state of elegance.

Some real intriguing dialog is established with guitarist **David Occhipinti**. Sometimes quirky, sometimes aggressive, sometimes harmonious... and all bundled up nicely.

Two different tenor saxophonists join Davidson on this session. It's more than a little fun to follow the woven pattern of intertwining lines on her tuneful duets with **Trevor Hogg**, whereas her duets with **Mike Murley** is all about the back-and-forth of witty dialog.

When **Andrew Downing** is on cello, the song just bubbles with personality, sounding both mysterious and benevolent. And when Downing switches to acoustic bass, it's a dance and its motion is simply riveting.

The only real weak spot on the album is the syrupy “For Glenda,” the first duet with pianist **Laila Biali**. However, this duet also produces, arguably, the album's strongest track. “The Good Earth” has a sublime touch, the kind of solemn, delightful music meant for peaceful Sunday mornings when a comforting hush settles in over the city. That it grows from this state into one that dramatically blooms is an even greater reward.

Just a real personable album, and one that I'm happy to recommend.

Your album personnel: **Tara Davidson** (alto & soprano saxes), **Mike Murley** (tenor sax), **Trevor Hogg** (tenor sax), **David Occhipinti** (guitar), **Andrew Downing** (cello, acoustic bass), **David Braid** (piano) and **Laila Biali** (piano).



Released on [Addo Records](#).

Jazz from the Toronto, Canada scene.

Available at: [eMusic](#) | [Amazon CD/MP3](#)



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