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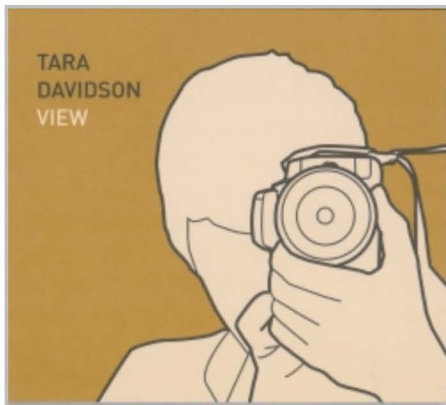
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Jazz and Improvised

Written by Geoff Chapman

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Her continued rise to the top is exemplified by alto and soprano saxophonist **Tara Davidson** in her new release **View (TD-11 www.taradavidson.ca)**. This seven tune set of originals, her third as leader, embellishes her talent as a composer as well as a horn player who first emerged hereabouts as a Mike Murley protégé who comprehends the importance of balance and contrast. Her colleagues – pianist James Reynolds, bass Jon Maharaj and drummer Fabio Ragnelli – are fully in sync with her expansive ideas. The opening *Bunny, Bubs and Bodie* has effective alto long-line improv with supple phrasing, while Reynolds eases *June* into a reflective mode that's sweet

but not sentimental before tempo is doubled for an undulating scamper that suits the bustle and ebb of the boss' notions. Elsewhere she displays a sprightly soprano that particularly flourishes with Reynolds switching to electric piano. Tempos hew to the serene, which makes the bruising elements of *South Western View* a welcome, grittier proposition, but this album is a classy contender for your wallet.