



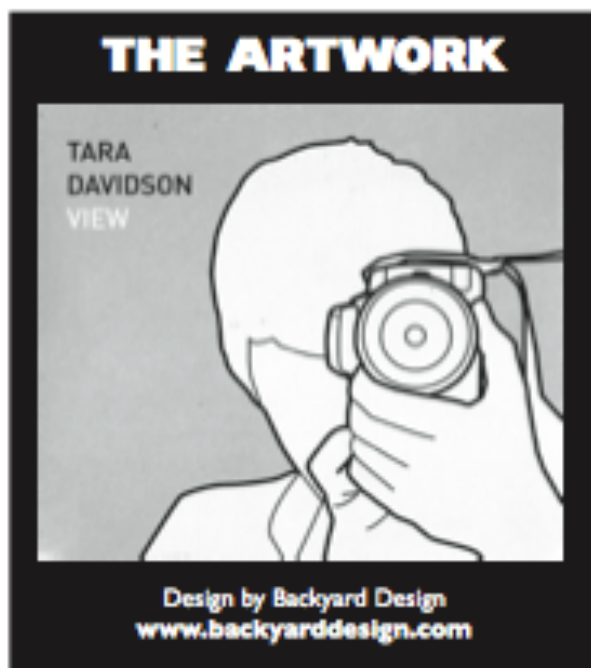
VIEW
BY MATT ROBERTS

TARA DAVIDSON

Who? Alto saxophonist Tara Davidson releases her third disc as a leader, and her first with her new group featuring Jamie Reynolds on piano, Jon Maharaj on bass, and Fabio Ragnelli on drums (Trevor Hogg also plays tenor saxophone on two tracks). Known for her collaborations with Juno-award-winners Mike Murley and David Braid, Davidson's previous album *Code Breaking* was itself nominated for Traditional Jazz Album of The Year.

What? *The View* has a considered, reflective feel, in the sense that it covers many different moods and styles in only seven tracks. My favourite is the opener "Bunny, Bubs and Bodie" (a reference to HBO's *The Wire*). The yearning, hopeful alto melody soars above the [David] Binney-esque piano ostinato and rock drum groove. Davidson's soloing is melodic and heartfelt, choosing emotional immediacy over recitations of bebop language. The rest of the tracks range from the light Latin feel of "Guillermo's Song" to the slow, heavy swing of "Marni's Way", to the driving 7/4 rock groove of "South Western View"; the compositional style flirts between traditional and modern from track to track. Another favourite of mine is the succinct, beautiful and sad power-ballad "For Glenda", which closes the album. I would have appreciated a greater sense of build and climax in Trevor Hogg's nonetheless skillful solo on "Murphy's Law". There's great playing from everyone (including a haunting solo piano introduction to "For Glenda" by Reynolds), the album is well recorded and engineered (I especially appreciated Maharaj's bass tone), and the tunes are artfully composed and arranged (although perhaps not always daring), but I think what I enjoyed most was Davidson's emotive, inventive and energetic soloing - perhaps evidence of the influence of her teacher and band-mate Mike Murley, who's soloing I also enjoy - for similar reasons.

When? Davidson will be playing with the Jazz Vespers at Christ Church Deer Park October 16th 4:30-5:30pm (no cover charge)



Info, sounds and more at:

WWW.TARADAVIDSON.CA