

International Music Forum, New Zealand

A Reason to Smile Pacific Coast Jazz PCJ72100

Rob Ryndak

A collection of ten well-crafted originals by Rob in easy-listening latin, calypso, and afro-pop styles. Jazz improv from the leader on piano, Greg Fishman tenor sax and flute, Steve Wunder alto and tenor sax, and Joe Sala on trumpet and flugelhorn all sparkle with happy brilliance. Heads and groove merge well in a contemporary jazz combo sound with congas, guitar and percussion establishing and building tight rhythmic beds, and supporting all featured soloists including Carter Luke's B3 organ on the soulful *Jadey*.

Each track features one, two, or three of the soloists such as semi-hollow-bodied guitar whizz Sasha Brusin on the solid 6/4 workout of *Larimar*, or Greg Fisherman's elegantly flowing flute on *Clare's Arrival* and *The Gift of Courage*.

Within its palette of smiles the program offers variety and change with such gems as *Just Live*, a jazz waltz, and the contrasting solo sections of *Paradoxes*.

The twelve players spell one another so that the mix is light and fresh rather than heavy dark big-bandish.

The program is a summertime sparkler, perfect for a sophisticated Californian beach-party, or antipodean christmas barbecue.

Ryndak writes:

THERE IS TRUE BEAUTY
IN SIMPLICITY OF LIFESTYLE
AND HUMILITY OF CHARACTER.
THIS IS WHAT I STRIVE FOR
IN MY MUSIC AND LIFE;
THUS THE BEAUTY OF IT ALL
CAN SHINE THROUGH

Jim Langabeer