



# PACIFIC COAST JAZZ

## is proud to present

### Tom Braxton - "Endless Highway"



Listening to saxophonist Tom Braxton on his latest release, "Endless Highway," one cannot help being filled with a sense of joy as his music swirls through your soul and leaves you spellbound as he cleverly caresses each note of his lyrical melodies. A seasoned performer, who knows how to charm audiences of all ages, Braxton has his own distinctive and recognizable sound which incorporates elements of Jazz, Latin, Funk and R&B. This new disc highlights Braxton as a composer, producer and arranger along with six of his original compositions that feature his effortless transition from soprano, alto and tenor saxophones to showcasing his versatility on piano, keyboards and flute.

Bursting with exhilarating grooves and sizzling hot horn arrangements, "Endless Highway," on the Pacific Coast Jazz label, manages to lift Braxton to a new level of artistry as he pays homage to his friend and mentor, professional basketball player and bass guitarist, Wayman Tisdale, who recently died battling cancer. Braxton spent over seventeen years blending his sound with the gifted entertainer and the track, "That Wayman Smile," is dedicated to his loving spirit. "Wayman's passing," according to Tom, "is a reminder of our mortality and has made me determined to live my life to the fullest every day as I realize that tomorrow is not a guarantee for any of us." "Endless Highway" is a testament to the many challenges Tom has faced along his highway of life, and he hopes it will help others as they continue down their own road. "We are all on this road of life, moving at our own pace, experiencing the smooth places where you can relax and the rough roads that can challenge and discourage you. But we must never forget how important it is to enjoy the ride!"

And Braxton definitely takes us on a memorable ride on this sensational soundtrack. Joined by an outstanding array of instrumentalists and vocalists, this recording is a toe-tapping, colorful, groove-oriented excursion with a sophisticated urban flavor that will make you feel like dancing and singing all day long. From the first and title track, "Endless Highway," which signifies the beginning of this rhythmic ride, to the final track, "Home Sweet Home," that transports us to the end of the CD that chronicles the many experiences we face in life, Braxton creatively completes the full circle of a smooth jazz journey.

Without a doubt, "Endless Highway" will drive Tom Braxton to the top of the charts as those of us take a trip with his inspiring tunes at home or on the road. So get ready to pack your bags, roll down the windows and crank up the volume in the "Braxton tradition." "Creating music that brings people joy is my mission in life," says Tom. Looks like he has accomplished his mission on "Endless Highway."

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#### Personnel:

- Tom Braxton: tenor, alto & soprano saxes, keyboards, piano, flute, horn arrangements, programming
- Len Barnett: percussion
- Don Bozman: trombone
- Pete Branham: alto sax
- Eric Brooks: horn orchestrations
- John Carruth: drums/loops
- Daran DeShazo: acoustic guitars
- Arthur Dyer: lead & background vocals/vocal arrangement
- Tim Gant: keyboards/programming
- Gerey Johnson: guitars
- Braylon Lacy: lead bass, bass
- Selinza Mitchell: background vocals
- Joe Ninowski: loop/percussion
- Richard "Rico" Gonzales: percussion
- Jennifer Ritter: cello
- Jay Rowe: keyboards/programming & horn arrangements
- Larry Spencer: trumpet
- Jason Thomas: drums
- Joseph Toliver: bass /loop
- Eric Willis: keyboards/programming
- Derrick "Domino" Winding: guitars

#### Track Listing:

- 1 Endless Highway
- 2 Just in Time
- 3 Soul Purpose
- 4 That Wayman Smile!
- 5 Detour Ahead
- 6 The Journey
- 7 Ventura Highway
- 8 Open Road
- 9 Distant Skies
- 10 Home Sweet Home



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Artist	Tom Braxton
Title	Endless Highway
Selection #	PJ81105
UPC	829166811059
Street date	October 6, 2009
Genre	Jazz
Run time	48:05
Label	Pacific Coast Jazz
Format	CD



**ABOUT "Endless Highway" in his own words:**

1) **Endless Highway** – The title track was the first song and theme written specifically for this project. The horn arrangement and groove signify moving down life's busy road with optimistic anticipation on life's musical journey.

2) **Just in Time** – Chicago producer and songwriter Tim Gant brought an urban sophisticated sound to this track.

3) **Soul Purpose** – I wrote this song to provide a lyrical melody that I could envision being sung long after the song fades.

4) **That Wayman Smile!** – Jay Rowe and I put our heads together to pay tribute to my great friend, bass player and basketball player, Wayman Tisdale. Bassist Braylon Lacy succeeded in keeping the spirit of the "big guy" who will be missed by all.

5) **Detour Ahead** – Tim Gant and I collaborated on this tune that starts grooving at the downbeat and reminds us that we must be prepared in life to take another road to reach our destination.

6) **The Journey** – The journey is the most important part of the ride, and producer Eric Willis captures the essence of enjoying each moment in this flowing arrangement that highlights the soprano saxophone.

7) **Ventura Highway** – I grew up listening to this song by America. Grammy winner Arthur Dyer contributed a fantastic lead vocal to my arrangement of this classic.

8) **Open Road** – When I wrote this, I imagined a long stretch of interstate with cruise control and the windows down. Settle in for a long drive and keep your hands on the wheel!

9) **Distant Skies** – I was inspired by one of those picturesque sunsets as I was driving home one day. This is my sonic description of the hues of yellow, orange and magenta through the voices of the piano, flute, soprano sax and cello.

10) **Home Sweet Home** – As the journey started on the "Endless Highway," this is where it ends, back at home. I wanted the final climax of the journey to end with a captivating alto sax solo featuring a beautiful melody written by Eric Willis.

Saxophonist and composer Tom Braxton's latest release, "Endless Highway," takes you on the ride of your life. Joined by an outstanding array of instrumentalists and vocalists, this recording is a toe-tapping, colorful, groove-oriented excursion with a sophisticated urban flavor that will make you feel like dancing and singing all day long. From the first and title track, "Endless Highway," to the final track, "Home Sweet Home," Braxton creatively completes the full circle of a smooth jazz journey. "Endless Highway," his second release on the Pacific Coast Jazz label, lifts Braxton to a new level of artistry as he pays homage to his friend and mentor, professional basketball player and bass guitarist, Wayman Tisdale, who recently lost his battle with cancer.

Tom has shared the stage with renowned artists including Dave Koz, Rick Braun, George Duke, Kirk Whalum, Jonathan Butler, Jeff Golub, Marcus Miller, Luther Vandross and Wayman Tisdale. He has opened concerts for Norman Brown, Boney James, Najee, Dave Brubeck, Cab Calloway, Spyro Gyra, The Rippingtons, David Benoit, Pieces of a Dream, Michael Franks and The Crusaders. Braxton has been featured in many media and publications such as JAZZIZ, Smooth Jazz News, CBS's The Saturday Early Show, BET's Jazz Central, TBS, TNT, ESPN, CNN and NBC's Inside Stuff.



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Available at fine retail outlets October 6, 2009 as well as: CDBaby.com, iTunes, Amazon.com

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