

Review of **Jazz Musings**  
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First, please accept my full disclosure that I'm a Vince Lewis fan and have been for years. And this CD is every bit the joy I knew it would be. Another disclosure: I've never been one to let even the finest wine linger in the cellar, so I was surprised to find out these tracks had been in the can since 1997. No explanation is given for that but this recording is the result of Jim Martin of JMP Records asking Vince to lay down some tracks in a West Virginia studio nearly fifteen years ago.

They're mostly first takes of great standards and truly indicative of what a splendid jazz guitar soloist can produce at a moment's notice. Any jazz fan will know the tunes: "Poor Butterfly," "Nancy With The Laughing Face," "I Remember You," "Stars Fell On Alabama" and other excellent choices from *The Great American Songbook*. There are, however, two more esoteric tunes. One, "Serene," written by Wes Montgomery, and another, Fred Ebb's "A Quiet Thing," that Wes recorded, was from a very short lived Broadway show.

For further descriptions of this recording, just pick up a thesaurus and find synonyms for *superb, extraordinary, elegant*, etcetera. Lewis has achieved what every jazz guitarist should aspire to: the ability to grab your axe and play an interesting, engaging and harmonically sophisticated rendition of a great tune. Moreover, Vince Lewis is an excellent communicator with the instrument. And he's a respecter of what our best composers and tunesmiths had in mind. With Lewis, the melody is always accessible and identifiable. So this is an album that works brilliantly well for focused listening by an aficionado or your Aunt Millie, who just wants some nice music in the background. That's communication.

There's nothing here not to like. The CD is beautifully mastered so the audio is excellent and the artistry is of a very high order. It's simply first-class playing from one of the best. Highly recommended.