

MYRON WALDEN

To Feel (Demi Sound)

What We Share (Demi Sound)



On the heels of *Momentum*, a quintet project inspired by mid-'60s Miles Davis and released late in 2009 on Walden's own Demi Sound label, come these two albums, introducing a different lineup and exploring distinct sonic concepts and moods. Marking the end of Walden's four-year recording hiatus, as well as his shift from alto to (predominantly) tenor sax, they figure into Walden's recent multi-faceted burst of creativity, next being the forthcoming organ trio document *Countrified*, which promises to be a Southern-flavored venture.

Both *To Feel* and *What We Share* feature various constellations of the stellar ensemble In This World, consisting of David Bryant on Fender Rhodes, Mike Moreno on electric and acoustic guitar, Yasushi Nakamura on acoustic bass and Kendrick Scott on drums, with guest appearances by bassist Chris Thomas and keyboardist Jon Cowherd, Walden's collaborators in Brian Blade's Fellowship band, as well as the inspirational Blade himself. Walden's expressed intention on *To Feel* is to surround listeners with a lush soundscape that will provide them the opportunity to experience and reflect on "the beauty that exists in this world." And so he does. The music is expansive, pensive and highly emotive, as mirrored in the compositions' titles ("Settling Calmness," "Inner Peace"). On *What We Share* Walden offers music expressing the love, joy and peace he wishes to share as antidotes to reality. "Tama" and "A Love Eternal" brim with feeling, illustrating Walden's evocative, accessible melodies, while the simultaneous sense of calm and drive on "In Search of the Lost City" conveys an urgent yet serene quest.

Walden's choice of the tenor for the majority of this material serves the music well (several tunes feature soprano sax or bass clarinet). The horn's lower register facilitates the expression of the tone and texture of the sentiments he explores here, captured by the fluid, spacious and atmospheric spirit of the band. Those familiar with Walden's music might miss some of his signature intensity: These recordings manifest a more tranquil energy, reflecting yet another aspect of Walden's inner world and of his skill as a composer and player.

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