

## Praise for Branford Marsalis and Joey Calderazzo Duo Performances

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"Nearly 15 years of performing together in a group, and experiences playing together that go back to 1990, have helped form a strong musical and personal bond between Marsalis and Calderazzo. Throughout the 90-minute set, they exhibited such comfort that they always played in perfect lockstep.... After such a long musical and personal friendship, the connection between the two shone through in the music - which, while it was usually beautifully subdued rather than fiery, was incredible all the same.

*Jon Ross, ArtsCriticATL.com*

"... the standout may have been the final number, Calderazzo's "Hope," written in memory of saxophonist Michael Brecker. Here the beauty of execution — the surprising shifts in tempo, Calderazzo's elegiac chording, the dramatic arc of the improvisations — delivered all the emotion you could ask for from two musicians who were listening as hard as they played."

*Jon Garelick, Boston Phoenix*

"Saxophonist Branford Marsalis consorts with Joey Calderazzo, the pianist of his quartet since 1998, for a session that is surprisingly sublime. Marsalis and Calderazzo sound classical in the best jazz sense: handsome melodies creating beauty and lots of free space for interaction."

*Karl Stark, Philadelphia Inquirer*

"...what impressed me most about these performances was how fully the players were engaging with the material. They weren't "soloing on tunes"; they were getting inside the songs, rooting around, exploring.... Marsalis and Calderazzo were interrogating these songs, needling them, pounding out their wrinkles, obsessing over them. The songs were not fodder; they were the focus, the matter at hand.... Another reminder that the best jazz isn't just about blasting off indiscriminately; it's about taking flight, yet knowing where your ceiling is—and, crucially, knowing where to land.

*Hank Shteamer, Dark Forces Swing Blind Punches*

"In the opening number of the duo's opening set, Marsalis pushed his soprano against Calderazzo's clouds of sound. The shape of the melody recalled Jewish themes. The harmony, spare and open, came from the American south. And the result sounded like heaven."

*Michael Eck, TimesUnion.com*