

Website: www.clairedalymusic.com
Email: cdbjazz@aol.com

Promotion/Publicity/Booking:
Jay Martini
publicity@clairedalymusic.com

Claire Daly Reviews

"Unless you've been comatose these past few years you must be aware that Claire Daly has established herself as one of our most compelling and creative voices on the baritone saxophone. And Heaven Help Us All, her third CD as a leader, will only serve to reinforce that status. Programmed with wit and intelligence, this new release has enough "concept" to lend it a sense of overall coherence, and enough stylistic variety to reveal Daly's range and versatility.

"The track titles all connect, however obliquely, in some cases, to an underlying theme, a sort of secular prayer for sanity and hope in these troubling times of unfathomable natural catastrophes and preventable man-made horrors. With this in mind, John Coltrane's "Dear Lord" serves as a gentle invocation rendered by Daly's baritone, as vibist Warren Smith interweaves a subtle obbligato. She breezes into Harold Arlen's infectious melody, "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea," an uncomplicated, unencumbered vehicle for straight-ahead blowing. Eli Yamin's soulful, serene piano enhances the sanctified mood of the title track, Stevie Wonder's modern-day spiritual, as "sung" by Daly's rich, deep baritone timbre.

"Daly literally sings, without mannerism or strain, on "Heavenly," an uplifting jazz waltz enhanced by the human beat box effects of Napoleon Maddox. That great American show tune, "Ol' Devil Moon," gets the exactly swinging treatment it deserves, with finger-popping solos by Daly, Smith and Adam Bernstein.

"For the past decade or more, those jazz artists who have been able to move the music forward have done so by drawing upon other musical sources – various types of world musics, New Music, even hip hop – and incorporating the best elements from these alternative currents into an ever-broadening jazz mainstream. In that vein, the CD's most striking track fuses spoken word, hip hop, and jazz, as Kirpal Gordon recites a stream of consciousness-type of jazz manifesto, "What We Got Against Tyranny" accompanied first by Maddox's human beat box and then by Daly's interpolation of Rahsaan Roland Kirk's haunting "Theme for the Eulipions."

"Eli Yamin's ballad, "Jacquet's Meditation" is a fitting tribute to a jazz giant who left us just one day before these recordings were made. "The Small But Evil Man," by Adam Bernstein, creates an unsettled mood, reflecting the loss of control that people inevitably feel in a world fraught by the havoc caused by small, but evil men. Another imagery-laced recitation by Gordon invokes Chano, Mongo, and even Django as it admonishes listeners, "Don't Dismiss the Bliss in Your Own Funk," before merging into Daly's edgy, forceful treatment of Willie Bobo's "Evil Ways."

"Daly's relaxed reading of "My Blue Heaven" brings the CD toward a calm resolution. But there is still the benediction to be delivered, in the form of a vocal reprise, sung by Daly and chorus, of "Heaven Help Us All." Stevie Wonder's lyric truly expresses a message for our time – "Heaven help the boy who won't reach twenty-one/ Heaven help the man who gave that boy a gun" – as does this brilliantly conceived and executed CD by Claire Daly"

Bob Bernotas, **Jazzimprov Magazine**

"...She is definitely the baritone saxophone talent to watch."
Paul DeBarros, **Downbeat**

"...She is the most lyrical baritonist performing, and that is no small feat. Movin' On is a really superb recording from the ground up."

C. Michael Bailey, **AllAboutJazz.com**

"...A supple tone and a strong command of the horn and the modern mainstream"

Neil Tesser, **Jazziz Magazine**

"... She can combine bebop phrasing with a big barking R&B tone...Jazz could use more like her>"

Kevin Whitehead, **Chicago Reader**

"...Daly is clearly one of the most talented baritone saxophonists to come along in some years..."

Jack Bowers, **AllAboutJazz.com**

"...Movin' On, while addressing loss, more importantly emphasizes the rejuvenating omnipresence of life."

Don Williamson, **Jazzreview.com**

"...remarkable sound, clear and sweet and filled w/ harmonic devices. Claire ranks among the best of today's contemporary baritone saxophone players."

Lee Prosser