

Media Quotes

Spare, elegant, melodic, soaring, fierce - Vancouver's Mike Allen has arrived as the country's top jazz saxophonist. Echoes of John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman and Joe Lovano resonate through Allen's work, but the Vancouver-based saxman has channeled them into a voice of his own, by turns soulful, intense, lush and dynamic.

Doug Fischer, Ottawa Citizen

An accomplished musician who has studied Coltrane in depth and forged a style that is fresh and vital.

Jazz Journal International

Allen remained, like Rollins before him - a supremely melodic improviser - an original in the making. One of a half-dozen interesting Canadians to watch.

Mark Miller, Globe And Mail

Mike Allen's world is well worth a visit.

Andy Hurlbut, The Jazz Report

Songs that imply a spiritual search - an ideal backdrop for Allen's broad, brawny solo.

James Hale, DownBeat

Allen's improvisations swing effortlessly and eschew stock clichés in favor of more inventive phraseology.

David Franklin, Cadence Magazine

Allen's tone is as pure as that of Joe Henderson. His aesthetic habits come straight out of a blue-chip tenor tradition: from Joe Lovano back to Coleman Hawkins and into his primary inspiration, John Coltrane.

Marke Andrews/Greg Buium, Vancouver Sun

Besides his stunning, smooth, smoky tone and relentless attack, Allen's true strength is his ability to pace and phrase his solos in a way that draws a listener into the music.

Dave Coon, Planet Jazz

Vancouver-based saxophonist Mike Allen is a local jazz treasure. Fearless (Almus Jazz/Warner) is the latest recorded evidence of his soulful genius.

Joe Blake, Victoria Times-Colonist