

## **Airborne – Heavy Vibes – CD Reviews**

Tons of percussion....tons of energy... tons of soul...that's what you're gonna hear in the fourth release from one of the most talented contemporary jazz bands around.

You can definitely hear and feel the positive vibes on Heavy Vibes...on every song...in every performance. This is really a cookin' album!

They're obviously a powerfully positive force for jazz, and you can't miss the quality and energy on this project. From the intoxicating Latin percussion that kicks off the CD right on through each and every tune on Heavy Vibes, you'll find yourself totally engaged in the Airborne experience.

### **Scott O'Brien – Smoothjazz.com**

Heavy Vibes' is the latest release from the band Airborne, a group that has been around since the eighties and consists of family, friends and above all terrific musicians. It is their fourth release and with it they are re-igniting genuine old school jazz fusion in a way that is part 5th Dimension, part Weather Report, and part Ambrosia with just a hint of Tower Of Power thrown in for good measure. In fact this ultra tight collection of twelve tracks breathes influences from many quarters but in doing so manages to establish a unique identity that is all about Airborne.

They reinvent the kind of epic six minute plus track that was commonplace in the eighties but, until now, seemed to have gone out of fashion. Not any more as no less than seven of the tunes are of a duration of six minutes or more and it's a tribute to the energy the band generates that not one of them seem one second too long.

The band produces a unique multi-cultural sound that is funky, urban and uplifting all at the same time with a delicious throw back feel of some wonderful jazz eras. High Energy Contemporary Jazz!

### **Denis Poole – Smooth Jazz Therapy**

Airborne are a multi-instrumental and multi-facet jazz band from New Haven, Connecticut and remind me of the great jazz acts from the 80's and 90's such as Surface Noise, Rodney Franklin, Azymuth, Paul Hardcastle, Mezzoforte, Shakatak and some their vocal harmonies resemble the great George Duke and Tom Browne. Not surprising as the band was formed in the late 1980's when this style was particularly en vogue.

'Heavy Vibes' is the band's fourth CD release and is sure to follow on the success of their previous three CD's which enjoyed airplay on many Jazz Radio Stations throughout the US and abroad and received critical acclaim in JazzTimes, Jazziz, Downbeat and Billboard to name but a few.

The beauty about this album is that it stretches out beyond the jazz idiom and crosses over to the current urban soul and dance charts but the intoxicating driving sounds are also reminiscent of the early Spyro Gyra, Fattburger, Mezzoforte and Shakatak

This is totally a self penned album which is creditable on its own merits for the arrangements and performances. It is obvious that this is a touring band which has been playing together which results in some fine instrumental exchanges and idiomatic particulars which come from many years of performing together.

It is an album which requires a number of plays to eclipse the full menu on offer and the creativity behind the scenes. One for the more discerning smooth jazz fans and the 'Old School' jazz fusion fans who lived through the last two decades of the twentieth century. One I thoroughly enjoyed and brought me back to a musical flavor which has personal memories.

### **Wes Gillespie – JazzNet247 Radio**