

Radio Airplay Release - Mainstream Jazz - January 13th 2020



Joie de Vivre

A fine pianist based in Colorado, Eric Lilley has developed his own sound within the modern mainstream of jazz. His harmonies are sophisticated, he generally does not sound like anyone else, and he swings soulfully even on his more complex originals.

While Lilley sometimes plays rock and funk on electric keyboards, *Joie de Vivre* is strictly an acoustic affair. He teams up with bassist Mark Diamond and drummer Paul Romaine, both of whom he has known and worked with occasionally since the 1980s. Their familiarity with each other's playing is obvious as they perform nine of the pianist's songs.

The opener, "Twirler," has a fairly whimsical but unpredictable melody that is part Thelonious Monk, part Chick Corea and all Eric Lilley. "Tournesol" (French for sunflowers) is the first of several jazz waltzes on the program, featuring Lilley's close interplay with bassist Diamond and a mysterious yet joyful feel. "Burnt Ribs" is a boppish swinger while "Zooey" is a lyrical and melodic ballad that starts out with unaccompanied solo piano before it becomes a sensitive vehicle for the trio.

"Poppy" is a tender jazz waltz which the pianist infuses with plenty of feeling. "Everybody Knows" could serve a tribute to Bill Evans for Lilley captures his chord voicings and musical closeness with the trio without directly copying him. Both the light swinger "Luck Of The Draw" and the minor-toned "Rouac" could become standards in the future if they are adopted by other musicians. Both are very likable hard bop pieces that inspire creative solos. *Joie de Vivre* concludes with the happy title cut which perfectly wraps up the enjoyable set. *Joie de Vivre* serves as a perfect introduction to Eric Lilley, a pianist and composer who deserves to be much better known.

*Scott Yanow, jazz journalist/historian and author of 11 books including *Bebop and The Jazz Singers*.*

Eric Lilley was born on the 17th of November, 1954, in Corona California to Neil, a Marine Lieutenant, two weeks away from discharge and his wife of 2 years, Donna. Donna was a piano teacher, church organist and life of the party. After brief stops in Kansas City and Lincoln, Nebraska, the family settled in the Denver area where Eric has lived, left and returned many times. Other residences have included Boston, where he attended the Berklee College of Music, Houston, Phoenix, Nashville, and Branson, Missouri as well as a dozen cruise ships of various ports and destinations. Eric has 2 children, twins - Erica and Neil and is living once again nearer the clouds in Summit County, Colorado.

<https://ericlilley.com/> <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/ericlilleytrio> <https://music.amazon.com/artists/B07RPW2GLJ/eric-lilley-trio>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4tGIXNPzT7QUsUHYT4hiuyvGM_4yDnM4&app=desktop

<https://play.google.com/store/music/artist?id=Aylrzyufphtpialnffpge42ytxu>

Contact: Twin Goat Music 970-389-6489 xman421@aol.com

