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Billy Childs Quotes

There seems to be a rebirth of the jazz chamber music genre, and of the several examples that have crossed my desk lately I think this one is the very best. In "Lyric" Childs seeks to blend elements of jazz and classical into an organic whole. With his compositional and arranging chops he's the perfect choice to make such a marriage work. His pianistic virtuosity ties it all together — on some tracks almost assuming the role of piano concerto.

Audiophile Audition

With its gorgeous melodies, harmonic beauty, deeply moving lyrical depictions, "Lyric" captures the emotional complexities of people, places, and events with class and style.

All About Jazz

Tonight (Childs) held his capacity audience riveted with his exquisite touch, his fertile improvisational capacity and his phenomenal ear. His accompaniment lifted his soloists to even grander levels, particularly Colley and Blade when they got their chances in the spotlight. His own improvisational contribution was spectacular here and there, but mainly it was deeply musical and aesthetically commanding.

The Hollywood Reporter

Billy Childs is a Los Angeles treasure. As a pianist, he possesses the improvisatory skills and powerful sense of swing one associates with world-class artists. He is a thoughtful observer of the jazz scene with a born educator's insightful view of its many complexities. And, perhaps most importantly, Childs is an inventive composer and arranger whose efforts in those areas consistently expand the dimensions of the jazz genre - and beyond.

The Los Angeles Times

With this deeply spiritual 45-minute work, the four-time Grammy® -nominated pianist and composer plunges into a musical world that explodes with an astonishing array of moods and colors: harmonically rich, rhythmically provocative and breathtakingly profound - "The Voices Of Angels" grabs an audience by the jugular and never lets go. If, as Leonard Bernstein once said, "music can make the unknowable, knowable and the incomunicable, communnicable," then Childs has, undeniably, written a work for the ages.

Victoria Looseleaf, The Los Angeles Master Chorale

"L.A. pianist Childs has been a sideman with Joe Henderson and Freddie Hubbard, and his maturity and poise have grown steadily with each of his own discs. Here, with ace cohorts like trumpeter Terence Blanchard (who deals both in smoky romantic melodies and snaky bebopping), rising saxist Steve Wilson, bassist Dave Holland and drummer Jeff Watts, he dives into fresh and inventive charts for standards and originals that organically frame the striking solos. This band stretches your ears while tugging at your soul."

Daily News

"Pianist Billy Childs' *The Child Within* is a pleasingly complex affair. Here's modern mainstream swing that blends intrepid arrangements with superb playing. Clever takes on 'Lover Man' and 'Alone Together' mix nicely with well-conceived originals. Childs has always been a compelling player, but *The Child Within* finds his invention at a new level. It helps that he's surrounded by the best: Dave Holland, Terrence Blanchard, Steve Wilson, and Jeff Watts all make the moves sound authoritative.

Billboard Jazz Blue Notes