



GERALD CLAYTON

Two-Shade

Debut recording, released on EmArcy

2nd November 2009

Performing Live at the BBC Radio 3 London Jazz Festival
(opening for Madeleine Peyroux)

The Royal Festival Hall

20th November 2009



Last summer, pianist **Gerald Clayton** enthralled a crowd of over 5,000 while opening for Herbie Hancock at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. Throughout the week his trio performed in an intimate night club that also served as an after hour hang. Word soon spread about the 24 year old dynamic cool cat with a skilful, fresh, and distinctly original approach. But as a Google search will demonstrate, the buzz has been building for some time in his American homeland where the cognoscenti of jazz media have been keeping a watchful eye on Clayton's packed houses, reporting on this stunning composer and seasoned improviser - even before he had his first record out!

Closer to home, Gerald Clayton has been noticed as pianist with Roy Hargrove with whom he has been touring since 2006 in his quintet, funk outfit and big band. "Clayton has a coolly delicate touch and gleaming sound" said the Guardian of his appearance on Hargrove's 2008 'Earfood'. The same year he performed with Hargrove and the BBC Jazz Orchestra offering his own compositions, the performance of which was described as "sparkling".

Born in the Netherlands in 1984, Clayton grew up in Los Angeles into a musical family that includes his father, bassist John Clayton, and uncle, Saxophonist Jeff Clayton. After years of study, and performances with some of the most established names in jazz including Lewis Nash, Al Foster, Clark Terry, Mulgrew Miller and recording with, aside from Hargrove, the Clayton Brothers, and Diana Krall, Clayton makes his thrilling debut, **Two-Shade**.

"Tradition and innovation can peacefully coexist" says Clayton of his recording, stating that the main theme of **Two-Shade** is "balance.... a balance between the old and the new". He continues, " I want to show respect to the great music that has inspired me yet show my support and allegiance to the forward movement of this music". **Two-Shade** is a culmination of ideas, concepts, and languages to create the ultimate statement of "musical honesty", which is he says, is his " true goal" This is he feels, will involve "a tricky balancing act".

To that end, **Two-Shade** is a set of sparkling originals with two standards that showcase both Clayton's talent as a composer, command of the piano, and his luminous mix of melody and improvisation. And it is his own remarkably tight and interactive trio of **Justin Brown** on drums and **Joe Sanders** on bass, all based New York, which provide him with the most direct opportunity to explore and expand his own thoughts in music"

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Two-Shade is an energetic recording, which as Jazz Times notes, presents his “refined touch, beautiful sense of dynamics and natural ease with swinging, steeped in a classy old-school tradition of jazz as practiced by the likes of Oscar Peterson, Errol Garner and other keyboard elders” Yet citing influences ranging from Freddie Hubbard to the Fugees, it is clear that his is distinctly the music of today.

Gerald Clayton releases Two Shade on November 2nd on Emarcy (Cat Number 2707144) and can be seen at this years BBC Radio 3 London Jazz Festival

November 15th

Performing with rising star vocalist, Gretchen Parlato
Pizza Express Jazz club

November 20th

Opening for Madeleine Peyroux
Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre
Tickets: www.southbankcentre.co.uk \ 0871 663 2500 \ Ticket price: £10, £20, £25

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