

Shelly Berg Quotes

The Joy



"Shelly has a clean, flawless technique. His touch on the piano is really wonderful. He also has a firm grasp of jazz harmony and improvisation."

"The arrangements on 'The Joy' were outstanding. The re-harmonizations of 'Here's That Rainy Day,' 'Star Eyes' and 'Green Dolphin Street' were superb. I also

enjoyed the work of Lou Fischer on bass, and Randy Drake and Steve Houghton on drums. Their collaboration with Shelly made the entire album sound like I was listening to a working trio that played together a great deal."

- Ernie Watts

"Shelly Berg is a great jazz pianist who seems to have total command of his instrument. He is talented, too, as a composer, arranger and group leader, which is evident in the way he utilizes in his trio the excellent playing of his drummer and bassist."

- Dave Brubeck

"Having shared the bandstand with Shelly Berg, I can attest that what you are hearing on this album is the real deal. Shelly can flat-out play and the joyousness in his playing is infectious. My favorite... 'Body and Soul'...it reminds me of that other pianist, Art Tatum, the stunning technique, the musicality... full of surprises, full of life. I know that you'll enjoy the artistry of Shelly Berg just as I have."

- Jon Faddis

"I've had the pleasure and honor to play with Shelly Berg. His new recording is just wonderful! It's an example of great music played and performed by a great artist."

- Louie Bellson

Blackbird (Concord, 2005)



"Shelly Berg can be a real powerhouse when he plays piano. In the past he has shown that he could keep up with Oscar Peterson in his prime, swinging just as hard and with comparable technique while displaying his own musical personality. . Blackbird shows that he is well worth discovering for Shelly Berg is one of the finest pianists around in the early 21st century playing modern mainstream jazz."

- Scott Yanow, *All About Jazz*

"Just where has this guy been all my life? Whew! Another great piano player shows us how it's done with stirring dynamics, choice harmonies and swirling passion."

- George Fendel, *Jazz Society of Oregon*

"Shelly Berg has always been a musician's musician. And even for jazz enthusiasts who had considered Berg to be a technically astounding and aggressive pianist with unstoppable energy, Blackbird reveals a more contemplative, but no less creative, side of his personality. Blackbird is an irresistibly appealing CD."

- Don Williamson, *JazzReview.com*

"Berg, a veteran jazz educator and frequent accompanist to vocalist Lorraine Feather, mixes it up with songs written over several decades in several musical styles. He approaches "All My Tomorrows" as a brisk, lightly swinging samba, followed by an emotional rendition of "Estate." He adds a bossa nova vamp that freshens the oldie "I Hear a Rhapsody," while his dreamy, impressionist take of Billy Strayhorn's lush ballad "A Flower is a Lovesome Thing" is absolutely stunning. The trio is just as comfortable exploring the work of modern pop, offering a shimmering take of Stevie Wonder's "Blame It on the Sun," a galloping but lighthearted romp through Billy Joel's "She's Always a Woman," along with a bluesy take of the Beatles' "Blackbird" that has an underlying Gospel flavor. If that's not enough, Berg includes a pair of delightful original compositions, including the strutting hard bop vehicle "Hot It Up" and the beautiful ballad "Julia." Both Berghofer and Field provide flawless support for Berg throughout the date." **4.5 of 5 Stars**

- Ken Dryden

"Shelly Berg's debut for Concord Records is an unerring mastery of jazz, pop and Great American Songbook standards combined with his unique West Coast inspired blend of adventure, rapture and intimacy. This exquisite recording captures Berg's trio-- Grammy winning drummer Gregg Field and bassist Chuck Berghofer-- in a relaxed, sustained performance. Berg's command of the piano stems from his prodigious talent and continuous education attained through years of study and teaching at some of the most prestigious music schools in the USA. In addition to his talent as a pianist, listeners are treated to his compositional integrity."

- BB Sounds Review

"Shelly Berg is best known outside Los Angeles as an accompanist, composer, arranger, film scorer and educator. His reputation as a jazz pianist gets a boost with this CD, his first on a label with wide distribution. His performance warrants the greater exposure. Berg's continuity between melodic line and powerful left-hand counter-punching is impressive. This is not just another recording of a pianist with accompaniment, but a unified trio."

- Doug Ramsey, *Jazz Times*

Performance Review

"A whirlwind of motion on the piano bench who never sounds a dull note, Berg gave a lesson in exuberance ---with a set filled with moments of high emotion and drama."

- Bill Kohlhasse, *LA Times*

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