

All Music Guide

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review by Scott Yanow

4/5 Stars

“Gusting” Seabreeze Jazz SB3071. 63.14 minutes

Michael Tracy has spent much of his career as an educator in the Louisville area. This CD shows that he is also an excellent jazz improviser who is particularly strong on tenor. While bassist John Goldsby and pianist Phil DeGreg have led CDs in the past, this is Tracy's debut as a leader. The music ranges from straight-ahead bop to Wayne Shorter - type post-bop jazz, with the highlights including "In the Hills," "Bern Waltz," the quirky "Note to Self" and a Latin-flavored version of "Sweet and Lovely," the only standard on the date. While Tracy did not contribute any originals himself, DeGreg, Goldsby and guitarist Craig Wagner brought in all of the other songs. The unity of the music, tightness of the ensembles and strong soloists show once again that there is a great deal of worthwhile jazz to be heard outside of the major metropolitan areas.