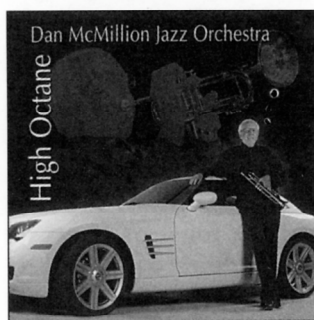


### Dan McMillion Jazz Orchestra—High Octane

Dan McMillion, trumpet, flugelhorn, Conn mellophonium; Chad Shoopman, lead trumpet; Jim Derrick, John DePaola, Wayne Daughtry, Elton Reyes, trumpets; Keith Oshiro, lead trombone, baritone horn; Dave Stamps, Robert Harrover, trombones; Chris Lundquist, bass trombone; Tom Dietz, alto saxophone, flute; Jennifer Mazziotti, alto saxophone; David Moss, tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone; Dalton Hagler, baritone saxophone; Richard Drexler, piano; Joe Porter, bass; Glen Bush, drums; Gumbi Ortiz, Latin percussion

Sea Breeze Jazz SBJ-2141 (CD); Sea Breeze Records, PO Box 1910, Pismo Beach, CA, 93448-1910; (805) 489-2055; <http://www.seabreezerecords.com>

Kostur: Get It To Go; Ferguson (Lindsay): Latino Love Walk; Holman: Dancing Nightly; Traditional (Sebesky): Danny Boy; Strayhorn (Sebesky): Take the A Train; Wonder (Beardwood): Another Star; Davis (Bishop): Four; John (Chattaway): Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me; Gillespie (Beardwood): A Night in Tunisia; Adler and Ross (Maiden): Hey There; Wiest: South 21st Street Shuffle.



Tampa, Florida, high-note trumpeter/bandleader Dan McMillion has dedicated this CD to the memory of Maynard Ferguson, who passed away in 2006. Indeed, eight or so of the eleven arrangements in this collection are lifted directly from the Ferguson band's book. McMillion takes on the role of Maynard here

and is able to pull off a remarkable imitation of the master in terms of sound, style, and cruising the trumpet stratosphere. The leader is featured on every selection except *Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me*, where lead trumpeter Chad Shoopman steps into Maynard's shoes and interprets the Elton John tune with strength and confidence. There are other strong soloists in the band, chiefly trombonist Keith Oshiro, whose outings on *Get It To Go*, *Dancing Nightly*, and *A Train* are definitely worth hearing. Tenor/soprano saxophonist David Moss has several convincing solo spots as well. One of the high points among all the solo statements is baritone saxophonist Dalton Hagler's effort on *South 21st Street Shuffle*. The rhythm section functions well here, although I did find a few flat spots where the intensity flagged a bit. There were also occasional rough edges with the intonation and the tightness of the ensemble playing, but nothing that would take away from the enjoyment of the music. For a band that is not a nationally touring aggregation, the Dan McMillion Jazz Orchestra certainly

approaches that level with this strong collection of big band standards in the style of Maynard Ferguson. One final thought: I would love to hear this band break free of the Maynard Ferguson “ghost” band mode and develop its own voice. (David Johnson, professor of harmony, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA)