

Press reviews and quotes about Doug Towle

I have never made a secret of my affinity for good Latin music, especially Latin jazz. Of course, as with any genre, not just any Latin music will do. It should be music that inspires, moves, touches, ignites, embraces, and lures with hot, seductive, romantic melodies, alive with the culture and spirit. Such is the case with the music of guitarist Doug Towle. I recently got wind of his 2009 release, *Desire, Heat & Spirit*. 2009?? Yep. I know. I seldom feature older material here, and I haven't yet created a section for such material (though I do plan to do so in the very near future). Nonetheless, some productions beg exception. This is one. Why? It's alive and breathes fire, lustiness, and melodies that simply can't be ignored.

A generous 15-track album, the catchy rhythms and riveting, memorable melodies and hooks take hold from track one's "Ritmo de la Vida" all the way through track 15's "Road to Mahajua."

Often equally sadly beautiful, sweet, and joyous in the same breath, the richness of really good Latin music needs to make little effort in reaching one's heartstrings and soul in a big way, especially if played by one who understands what makes it all tick. Towle obviously understands all too well. With a style as fluid, quick, and nimble as some of the best, he strums and picks through this set with confidence and swagger.

In the midst of all of this Latin love, the guitarist tosses in some reggae-tinged sauce for extra zing on "Ism Skism," a surprise treat.

This 2009 gem was a pleasant discovery. Needless to say, I eagerly await Towle's next project to see if he can match this fervor and imagination. Somehow, I suspect I won't be disappointed.
Ronald Jackson The Smooth Jazz Ride

"Rumba Flamenca may have been defined by the Gipsy Kings but it's a genre in development. It's also a discipline that pushes a guitarists techniques and talents to the max. That's why Doug Towle was deeply honoured to be selected from thousands of entries as one of the top ten guitarists in North America by the editorial staff of the venerable *Guitar Player Magazine* (no small feat). Doug proves himself up to the challenge and worthy of the praise on his new album *Desire, Heat & Spirit*; a volatile mix indeed.

It's also a vibrant journey that displays how far and into how many different styles he has pushed Rumba Flamenca. The fifteen tracks clock in at almost 70 minutes of acoustic shredding through salsa, Latin jazz, Spanish guitar and even the reggae one-drop (*Ism Skism* is definitely worth a listen). Other standouts include *Taking Flight*, *Luna Rojo*, *Natasha* and my personal favorite, *Alcatraz* which, true to the title, rocks big time."

Worldbeat Album Reviews by Cal Koat

"It should go without saying that the guitarist discovered by *Guitar Player* magazine has made a dazzling album. This hour of "Latin jazz and Spanish guitar" makes a strong first impression -- all speed and precision with rhythm and spice."

Tom Harrison, The Province

"A breath of fresh air, beautiful nylon string playing"

Steve Lukather, Toto

"Eminently listenable, highly danceable, sangria for the soul."

Alex Browne, Peace Arch News

"Exciting stuff...the audience went nuts!"

Jennifer Batten, Michael Jackson