

Kirk Whalum - Everything Is Everything (The Music Of Donny Hathaway) [2010]

Written by bluesever

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1 *Giving Up* 5:15 2 *Someday We'll All Be Free* 6:04 3 *We're Still Friends* 5:13 4 *Love, Love, Love* 3:55 5 *A Song For You* 6:14 6 *Valdez In The Country* 3:59 7 *Je Vous Aime (I Love You)* 4:42 8 *You Had To Know* 5:12 9 *Tryin' Times* 7:32 10 *We Need You Right Now* 5:56 11 *Voices Inside (Everything Is Everything)* 5:38 Acoustic Guitar – Larry Campbell (2, 5, 8, 11) Bass – Christian McBride Drums – John Roberts Electric Guitar – Jef Lee Johnson (1, 3, 7, 9-11), Jeff Golub (4, 6) Electric Piano, Piano – John Stoddart Flugelhorn – Rick Braun (4) Organ – Shedrick Mitchell (1, 3, 5, 7-11) Pedal Steel Guitar – Robert Randolph (9) Percussion – Bashiri Johnson Sitar – Larry Campbell (3) Tenor Saxophone – Kirk Whalum Vocals – Darcey Stewart (8, 10), Francis Bea (8, 10), Moiba Mustapha (8, 10), Lalah Hathaway (8)

Smooth jazz saxophonist Kirk Whalum frees up his sound by paying tribute to the tragically short-lived soul singer Donny Hathaway. Whalum goes for an organic, live-in-the-studio sound that shows how much 1970s soul artists such as Hathaway, Gaye and Flack were as well versed in jazz as pop. Hathaway's daughter, Lalah, offers guest vocals on a shimmering "You Had to Know," while Musiq Soulchild, Jeff Golub and Robert Randolph (on the liberating "Tryin' Times") also drop by. If you doubt this stands up as one of Whalum's best, just look at how relaxed he looks on the album cover. ---Nick Dedina, us.napster.com

Donny Hathaway would have been 65 years old on October 1, 2010. Although the passing of this visionary and multi-talented artist left a significant void, his pervasive influence leaves an indelible mark on popular music. Donny's genius as a vocalist, pianist, composer and arranger was evident in his ability to combine his unparalleled musical gifts with a deep spirituality that permeated all of his endeavors.

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There could be no better standard bearer for Hathaway's work than tenor saxophonist Kirk Whalum, whose work has similarly crossed the boundaries between R&B, gospel and jazz with an emotional immediacy that is beyond compare. Everything is Everything consummates the chart-topping For You and The Babyface Songbook to create a trilogy that brilliantly exhibit Kirk's singular interpretive skills, and further advances the career of this 8-time Grammy nominee.

Highlights include "You Had To Know," featuring a heartfelt performance by Donny's daughter, Lalah, and neo-soul crooner Musiq Soulchild's retro take on "We're Still Friends." Wonderful arrangements by Gil Goldstein and John Stoddart, with contributions from contemporary jazz masters Rick Braun, Jeff Golub and Christian McBride, as well as pedal steel scorchers Robert Randolph, come together with Whalum's passionate tenor to tell the musical story of one of the most important figures in popular music. ---Editorial Reviews, amazon.com

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