

Sean Jones - Eternal Journey (2004)

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1 *Gullyism* 2 *Eternal Journey* 3 *John* 4 *The Serpent* 5 *You Are My Everything* 6 *God Bless The Child* 7 *At The Last Minute* 8 *Searching* 9 *Somewhere Over The Rainbow (Bruce's Rainbow)* 10 *95 South* 11 *The Very Thought Of You* Sean Jones - Trumpet Charles Fambrough - Bass Ralph Peterson - Drums Tia Fuller - Saxophones, Flute Mulgrew Miller, Orrin Evans - Piano

Sean Jones makes a splash into the pool of jazz trumpet players with this debut recording. At 25 years old, Jones has a sound that's reminiscent of other modern trumpeters in the vein of Marcus Printup, Nicholas Payton, and Roy Hargrove. A teacher and student pursuing a doctorate at Duquesne University, his musical credits include names such as Jon Faddis, Joe Lovano, and the Gerald Wilson Orchestra.

Though Jones is considerably new on the block, *Eternal Journey* benefits from a stellar group of musicians which includes Ralph Peterson, Mulgrew Miller, Orrin Evans, and newcomer Tia Fuller, who contributes impressively on saxophone and flute. Veteran Charles Fambrough rounds out the set of musicians with solid bass work.

The eleven compositions include five written by Jones, two by Fuller, and four standards. Jones has a controlled and sparkling sound that is evident on the opening up-tempo piece "Gullyism" with rapid solos. He also performs with poise on the mellow title "Eternal Journey" with the addition of Fuller's lovely flute work. Things do get interesting on "The Serpent" with its circuitous syncopation and urban-styled flair.

The veterans perform as expected with Peterson's all encompassing drum work and Miller and

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Evans shining on piano. On "The Last Minute" the art of hard bop is shown in full effect as everyone glows with intense performances. Jones plays like a veteran and brings to mind another seasoned trumpeter, Terence Blanchard, on the soulful "95 South." On an interesting interpretation of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," Jones completely shines in terms of composition and harmony as he makes his own statement on the classic.

While seasoned listeners may find little new on Eternal Journey , they will be treated to some well executed music and the revelation that Jones is a skilled player with presence and potential. ---Mark F. Turner, allaboutjazz.com

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