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"6"

Lanny Morgan Sextet

(ACM Records)

"6" boasts Los Angeles-based musicians who, sadly, are little known outside their region. Maybe alto master Lanny Morgan's fresh CD will help reverse that situation. The tunes, mainly the leaders', are beguiling, filled with song and swing. His keenly-crafted "213 Ocean Front" and Jackie McLean's "Minor March" are just two selections displaying his profound Charlie Parker-based style, which he delivers with as much present-day verve and persuasion as anyone, anywhere. One engaging line after another delivered with rhythmic pop pretty much sums it up. Trumpeter Bob Summers, tenorman Doug Webb, pianist Tom Ranier, bassist Chuck Berghofer, and drummer Steve Schaffer are likeminded in spirit and execution – hip, individualistic storytellers all. Anyone who relishes lyrical-driven, percolating modern jazz will find a lot of pleasure here.

–Zan Stewart