

## **Press on Altin**

“Altin Sencalar plays with a unique blend of passion, soul, and technique. While his improvisation draws from the fire and intensity of R&B and Latin Jazz, they are simultaneously rooted up in the jazz tradition. He is an artist to be on the lookout for and his recording begs for multiple listens.”

— John Fremgan, Associate Professor of Jazz Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

“I truly enjoyed listening to every song on Altin’s debut recording. His trombone and euphonium playing projects absolute soul, warmth, and elegance. Altin’s compositions are extremely tasteful and I enjoyed his treatment of the standard repertoire. Wonderful selection of sidemen. Jazz trombone is in good hands.”

— Andre Hayward, Internationally Acclaimed Jazz Trombonist, 2003 Thelonious Monk Competition Winner

“This is a strong opening statement from trombonist Altin Sencalar, showcasing his great command of the horn, remarkable for both his power and range. His signature as a soloist is the rhythmic authority that he brings to every phrase. It’s also great to hear Altin’s emerging voice as an inventive composer/ arranger in this quartet/ quintet setting.”

— John Mills, Internationally Acclaimed Composer, Professor of Jazz Composition and Saxophone, University of Texas at Austin

“Altin Sencalar is one of the finest trombonists of his generation. His soulful sound and fiery improvisations are a pleasure to listen to.”

— SSG Kyle Johnson, US Army, Jazz Ambassadors 3rd trombonist

“Altin plays with fire, authority, and honesty. The energy and enthusiasm Altin and his band brings to this record (Introducing Altin Sencalar) fuels my optimism about the future of jazz. ”

— Jeff Hellmer, Director of Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Austin

“Altin’s hard work, dedication, and study of the Masters of jazz is evident in his debut album. He is a force to be reckoned with for sure. I expect great things from this young trombonist!”

— Freddie Mendoza, Professor of Jazz Trombone, Ball State University

“Altin Sencalar is a new generation of players that are keeping it alive. He has a great tone and is a first-class player. It’s always a pleasure to have him play in my jazz Vatos band from time to time.”

— Ernie Durawa, Grammy Winning Drummer for The Texas Tornados, and Los Jazz Vatos

“After having played several gigs with Altin Sencalar, I’ve marveled over his musical improvisation and interpretation. With technique reminiscent of Carl Fontana and Frank Rosolino he also portrays the expressive capabilities and lyricality of J.J. Johnson. A truly gifted trombonist who it inspiring to sit next to, energizing to listen to, and truly dedicated to furthering the art of jazz trombone.”

— Tom Mensch, Jupiter XO trombone artist

## CD Reviews, Introducing Altin Sencalar

Altin Sencalar

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Introducing Altin Sencalar is the recording debut as a leader of an impressive young trombonist. Altin Sencalar. Based in Austin, Texas, Sencalar has already gained a wide variety of musical experiences and developed an original style on trombone.

On this enjoyable CD, Sencalar plays trombone and occasionally euphonium, contributing seven originals and also playing fresh versions of two standards. His group is filled with up-and-coming players. Pianist Ross Margitza, bassist Alex Browne and drummer Daniel Dufour form a solid and consistently creative rhythm section while there are guest appearances by altoist Gerald Martinez, tenor-saxophonist Matt Maldonado and (on one selection apiece) David Young and Justin Smith on trumpet.

The set begins with "Melody In My Head," a relaxed medium-tempo ballad that serves as a fine introduction to Altin Sencalar. Showcased with the quartet, he displays a personal tone, inventive ideas, and shows that he is not shy to show emotion in his playing. "There's Something About It" is a cheerful and catchy melody that inspires strong solos from Sencalar, tenor-saxophonist Maldonado and bassist Browne; there is also a tradeoff with drummer Dufour. The blend between the trombonist and altoist Martinez on the pretty ballad "Distance Between Us" is memorable and the leader takes a fine cadenza at its conclusion.

The standard "What Is This Thing Called Love" swings hard and features Altin Sencalar's quick thinking on some uptempo bebop. Lee Morgan's "Ceora" has rarely if ever been performed by a euphonium player but Sencalar sounds very much at home, taking a surprising double-time chorus during a performance that also finds Martinez creating a bluish solo.

The modern and melancholy "This One Is Mine" precedes the joyful "I Got What I Wanted" which has some excellent playing by trumpeter David Young. The funky "It's 2 a.m." and the swinging minor-toned blues "My Last Sentiment" conclude the enjoyable CD.

Introducing Altin Sencalar lets one know that there is a talented new trombonist-composer on the jazz scene of Texas, one whose music deserves to be discovered and enjoyed.

-Scott Yanow, jazz journalist/historian and author of 11 books including *Bebop, Jazz On Film and Jazz On Record 1917-76*

