

GOING FOR ADDS AUGUST 8, 2021

FILE: JAZZ

ARTIST: FLIPPOMUSIC

TITLE: TAO TUNES

LABEL: Oppilf Records 1002

BARCODE: 616892178965

Running Time: 70:55

Compositions by Dave Flippo

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CD: ©OppilfRecords

Skokie, IL 60077

Original Contemporary Jazz

settings of 17 Chapters of the Ancient

"Tao Te Ching" (in English).



The Quartet:

Dave Flippo-piano, vocals, and all compositions.

Dan Hesler-saxophones and flute

Heath Chappell-drum set

Donn De Santo-bass and el. Bass

Guest Artists:

Larry Gray-cello

Neal Alger-acoustic and electric guitars.

Hamid Drake-percussion

Catherine Hughes-violin

Michael Levin-clarinet, bass clarinet and flute.

The Tao Te Ching is cool. A perfect fit for jazz...

"This going to be a bunch of ambient, new age tunes, right?" "Not!" Sure, a couple are pretty spacy, but each unique text inspired a different groove including pieces that are high (and medium) tempo Latin tunes, quirky swing pieces, Coltranesque driving 6/8 feel and, yeah, a few jazz ballads. This CD is a labor of love painstakingly made by someone that has made the Tao's message part of his soul and lifelong quest, so each piece has been given the utmost care.



Some of Chicago's best musician contribute to make it come alive in the fullest possible way. I've made a handy breakdown of the grooves to help you navigate the music, and there are a few that are "OUT" (which is perfect for the "way out" DJs!) but most of this CD is "REAL JAZZ," albeit, CONTEMPORARY REAL JAZZ-meaning I'm trying some new things.

Famed jazz critic, **Neil Tesser** said: "...Here's *Tao Tunes* (Oppilf Records), an absolutely unexpected, and unexpectedly successful, setting of 17 lessons from the *Tao Te Ching*. Tailoring a sensible range of jazz idioms to fit the lessons of various verses, Flippo has constructed a tuneful program that certainly stands up musically. I can't think of anyone who's so diligently turned his musical idiom to the service of much heavier religious philosophy as Flippo does here. The fact that it works is almost a bonus.

...Whether it's the craftsmanship of the writing, or the surprising appeal of Flippo's vocals, or the strength of the *Tao Te Ching* itself, *Tao Tunes* has definitely left its mark on my sensibilities. And a few of its earworms, against all odds, have burrowed deep into my right brain." (Chicago Musical Examiner, December 6, 2011. Full reviews at www.flippomusic.com/news)

Here's the **STYLISTIC BREAKDOWN**, and then a couple more rave review from around the world. I **bolded** my pics:

~ THE "IN" JAZZ:

SWING TUNES: #3. Water, #7. Stop, #9. Paradox, #15. Trouble

HARD 6/8 Groove: #5. Distractions

LATIN: #2. Fearless, #4. Useful, #10 Feeling, #16 Questions

JAZZ BALLAD: #6. Worthy, #8. Within (funk), #14. Returning, #17 Truth

~ AND THE "OUT" JAZZ and Beyond:

AMBIENT: 1. Tao, 11. Spirit

INDOJAZZ: 12. Sick

ROCK: 13. Hopeless

RE-RELEASE: ORIGINAL RELEASE DATE: 12/06/2011

ALL ABOUT JAZZ, ITALIA:

"Flippo's training shows flexibility and security by addressing different styles in a thematic context that is certainly not easy. Flippo, for his part, manages to bring together texts and music, giving them homogeneity, and performs the songs with a warm and reassuring voice. This commitment should be appreciated above all for its true source of inspiration, "the spiritual appeal," which allowed us to know the "Tao" of an exciting journey that Flippo undertakes between philosophy, religion, and music." April 10, 2012

THE HERALD SCOTLAND:

"But as one of the most intriguing releases to appear this year, it's (*Tao Tunes*) also a gift to the wider world. Sure, *Tao Tunes* can be dark and serious in places but it's also playful, joyous and musically enjoyable, and with the original text's sometimes fortuitous rhyming structure, at times it's simply downright good fun." Rob Adams, December 15, 2011.

www.flippomusic.com

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