



## Dale Barlow Live

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Dale Barlow	Saxophone / Flute
Mark Fitzgibbon	Piano
Matt Clohesy	Bass
Dave Beck	Drums

This album is a great example of the kind of (seemingly) casual magic that can happen when like-minded musicians get together for another day at the office: that is, three sets late at night in an intimate, informal jazz club like Bennetts Lane or Dizzy's in Melbourne.

Dale Barlow flies in from Sydney, renews acquaintances with Mark Fitzgibbon (they first met and played together while living in London in the early '80s) and Matt Clohesy, and meets Dave Beck for the first time. They rehearse for less than an hour, running through some original tunes and agreeing on a few standards they might like to play. Later that night, for their own pleasure -- but a pleasure they gladly share with an appreciative audience -- they let the music flow. And magic happens, as you can hear for yourself.

It may seem like a casual process, but of course there are years of work and study, countless hours of practice, involved in reaching the level of musicianship, and the knowledge of the jazz language and repertoire, displayed here. In Dale's case, he has spent long periods over the last two decades living in London, New York and Amsterdam, working with jazz greats like Art Blakey and Gil Evans. In Australia, he has worked with artists like Paul Grabowsky, Mike Nock and Vince Jones, as well as leading his own bands. He is internationally respected as a master of the tenor saxophone.

Listen to what he plays here : the very sound he produces is a thing of beauty. He has great technique, but more important, he knows how to tell a story in his solos. There is no better example than his wonderful rendition of the classic Nat 'King' Cole ballad, When I Fall In Love. (He's also a superb flute player, as Beautiful Love reveals).

Dale comments, "I was playing an old borrowed Conn 10m (Ladyface), which has a special sound and I fell in love with it for a while, but it kept falling apart. The flute is my old tarnished travelling flute which I've had since school, and has a spirit and a soul all of its own."

That Dale can stretch out and play so eloquently was made possible by the inspiring support of his colleagues. He says of Mark, "We click together because he's got amazing facility, knowledge, ears and rhythm. So there's a lot to draw from, from both our vocabularies, taste, and experience." Matt, he says, "knocked me out the first time I ever heard him some years back, and increasingly does so every time I hear him." And he praises Dave for his "great time, sensitivity and taste."

This is Dale's first 'live' album (not before time). He says, "Of course, there are only a few songs on the album, because we were having far too much of a good time playing to notice how long it was taking. I think this album represents many years of performing experience and rapport between Mark and myself, and the other musicians, and not forgetting the audience. More than that, it represents a common link between the musicians in Australia and other parts of the world who are all part of our mutual experience, who've been creating some magic in clubs over many years, playing sets like this one, and keeping the music live and accessible for all to share and enjoy."

Adrian Jackson

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