

GUARDIAN

THE BEST OF THE BAY... EVERY WEEK

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Anton Schwartz

When Music Calls (Anton Jazz)

Anton Schwartz has everything you want to hear in a modern jazz saxophonist -- an appealing, consistent tone, an abundance of ideas fueling both his compositions and his improvisations, and superb taste in musical collaborators. His tenor sound has been rightly compared to that of the late Dexter Gordon, and on his debut CD, with fine accompaniment by pianist Paul Nagel, bassist John Shifflett, drummer Jason Lewis, and percussionist Josh Jones, he applies his horn's smooth, ripe, and burnished timbres to eight melodically astute originals and a reading of the Rodgers and Hart ballad "Where or When" that proves Schwartz can tap just about any historical vein with fresh results. *Anton Schwartz performs Fri/27-Sat/28, Jazz at Pearl's, S.F.; Sun/29, Borders Books and Music, Stonestown Galleria, S.F.* (Derk Richardson)



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EXPREES

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Critic's CHOICE



ANTON SCHWARTZ QUARTET.

With his big sound and assured rhythmic phrasing, it's easy to hear why thirty-year-old tenor saxophonist Schwartz cites Ben Webster, Stanley Turrentine, and John Coltrane as primary influences. Born in New York, Schwartz spent the second half of the '80s gigging with the Harvard Jazz Band, holding down the first saxophone chair between Don Braden and Joshua Redman. Now based in the Bay Area, the mainstream-minded musician is rapidly developing as a composer and an improviser. He kicks off a series of gigs celebrating the release of his debut CD "When Music Calls" with a night at Yoshi's featuring pianist Paul Nagel, bassist John Shifflett, and drummer Jason Lewis. (A.G.) 8 and 10 pm. YOSHI'S, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 238-9200.