



Reviews

Trombonist—and longtime Sonny Rollins sideman—Clifton Anderson gets a long-deserved chance to step out front for a change. Throughout this fine mix of standards and originals he is supported by a pair of stellar rhythm sections (Larry Willis, Bob Cranshaw, and Al Foster; Stephen Scott, Christian McBride, and Steve Jordan), and joined on two tracks by alto saxophonist Kenny Garrett.

—Bob Bernotas, WNTI Public Broadcasting newsletter

Decade comes across as an extended family affair: soulful, lyrical, buoyant and impassioned by turns...Anderson is in fine form throughout, combining an expressive tone with characteristic harmonic and rhythmic agility. The author of six of the album's 10 selection, he also makes imaginative use of the remarkable talent assembled for this self-produced session..."

—Mike Joyce, *JazzTimes*

The trombonist lays out six originals and four covers with poise, feeling, and swing. . . . [Lead track] "Noble" exhibits Anderson's rich, glowing tone and fluid, engaging ideas.

—Zan Stewart, *Newark Star-Ledger*

On his own, Anderson has a better chance to showcase himself without the competition from his uncle's long solos, as well as featuring his catchy postbop compositions. . . . His snappy "So Wrong About You" is a strutting affair that sounds like it was written during the heyday of hardbop. The standards are just as much fun.

—Ken Dryden, *All About Jazz NY*

Anderson's fertile compositions allow his brand of straight-ahead jazz to shine, and his improvisations have an organic, unobtrusive quality where he finds new ground to plant his well-placed notes. . . . The music on *Decade* is loose enough to resemble a small band jam session from the early 60s and it swings with unabashed joy.

—Nick Bewsey, *Icon*

Anderson shines as a stylist and storyteller On *Decade*, Anderson demonstrates a new level of maturity and offers a warm, round and purposeful sound. . . . But the big news is that Anderson is a savvy writer. . . . [His] compositions are all strong and fresh, and they avoid being derivative. Best of all, they are tailor made to show off the trombonist's lyricism and powerful chops. . . .

Playing with Rollins and maintaining the legend's frighteningly high energy level has been heady stuff for the trombonist. As a leader, Anderson has found himself and delivers the warmth.

—Marc Myers, *JazzWax.com*

An absolute joy. Anderson. . . has a gorgeous warm chestnut tone, and he's adept both at gentle ballads ("I'm Old Fashioned") or supercharged boppers ("Stubbs"). . . . A truly great mainstream hard bop delight.

—George W. Harris, *JazzWeekly.com*