

Deep Into It

Larry Carlton
Warner Brothers
Review by Jeff Charney

If you like blues, jazz and a little soulful flavored R&B then you'll like the new CD from guitarist Larry Carlton. Deep Into It definitely mixes these like a big 'ol cake. Leaning more on the blues and soulful R&B side of things than the jazz, it doesn't really matter because if you can appreciate good musicianship you'll groove on this. Take Steve Winwood's "Roll With It" featuring some dynamite tones from saxophonist Kirk Whalum. Boy is he blowing! Carlton mixes the soul sax influence of King Curtis with his own take and the results are fantastic. You might have heard the first single "Deep Into It" by now on the radio. If anybody is ever "one" with the guitar it would be Larry Carlton and if you listen to his licks on this track you'd get what I'm saying. Whalum on sax once again. The funkiness of Deron Johnson's organ playing also adds a nice touch. More on the "smooth jazz" side of things comes a tasty ditty "Morning Magic" with a nice hook and Carlton doing what he does best picking soulful notes in a slow, mid tempo fashion. For all you Fourplay fans of which Carlton is a member of, you'll dig "Like Butta." Though no other member of Fourplay is on the song it sounds Fourplayish with saxophone. The CD, which is co-produced by Paul Brown kicks off with one of my favorite Joe Sample tunes, "Put It Where You Want It." You know Carlton does it justice! Then as an extra treat at the end of the CD there is the "Bonus Track," an extended version of Put It Where You Want It." There are two vocal tracks on the CD, one featuring Shai on the Eagles hit "I Can't Tell You Why." The other, Wendy Moten with Sue Ann Carwell lending some nice harmony on "I Still Believe." The later is a really pretty song that might find it's way on a couple of different types of radio stations playlists. The former is more for R&B radio. A few years ago I saw Carlton give a concert and I remember thinking to myself that I thought the only thing that made Larry happy was playing guitar. Deep Into It confirms my thoughts.