



Eric Lindberg

March 8, 2001 review of Eric Lindberg's "Common Thread"
(Profane Prayer Records) by Ed Symkus of the *Boston Tab*

What a pleasant surprise when someone chooses from a bag of standards (and one original), then proves to have the chops to pull them off with style and aplomb. Lindberg's voice is both sweet and powerful, and he knows not only how to play his instrument but also how to add just the right emotional shadings. With backing by a quietly swinging piano-tenor-bass-drums combo, there's at once a contemporary and a somewhat old-fashioned mood to "Stella by Starlight" and "Autumn Leaves". Lindberg goes happily – and effectively – upbeat on "There Will Never Be Another You" and is most loose and free – just right for some scatting – on "In a Mellow Tone".

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“Lindberg’s voice is both powerful and sweet” so writes noted critic Ed Sykmus of the *Boston Tab*. While it is true that Lindberg is one of the most accomplished of singers, Mr. Sykmus’ statement only tells a fraction of the story . . .

Lindberg is the complete artist. He not only is a world-class singer but a composer, a songwriter, a prodigious guitarist and front man. Lindberg is able to combine all of the hats he wears so seamlessly audiences are often overwhelmed (and happily so) by the many things that Eric brings to the table. It is not atypical to hear a delicate ballad sung with such feeling and tenderness that couples will unconsciously move a little closer to one another and then have Eric play a jaw dropping guitar solo and bring the happy couples to a frothy enthusiasm-all within the same song!

Lindberg has always had his fans here in Austin ever since he came to town in ‘95 to pursue his dream of playing music in an open and diverse musical scene. Shortly after arriving, Lindberg began teaching at Austin Guitar School and quickly became one of the school’s most popular teachers. Lindberg played in various settings for a while and then formed “Big Eric and the Deltoids” playing a powerful combination of jump blues, Jazz and danceable swing. Lindberg’s voice, guitar playing and insistence on the very best musicians to accompany him truly set this band apart. This refined and discriminating musical palette served him well for when he finally chose to showcase the delicate and swinging side of his artistry on a full length feature album, Lindberg chose Austin’s finest and went into the studio to cut *Common Thread*. And, while *Common Thread* does a great deal to place Eric among the elite Jazz/pop singers, like all serious artists Lindberg always wants to grow and expand and this is why he has broken ground on a new song-based album tentatively titled “*Conclusions of Grandeur*”

Eric Lindberg is available in many contexts. Be it in an intimate solo setting where he will, croon, holler, play his heart out and leave the audience wanting more or any combination from a duo with two guitars or piano to a sophisticated sextet. What is more, Lindberg’s musicianship and sidemen allow for him to choose from a wide variety of heartfelt material. Lindberg can make a true artistic statement in a museum just as easily as a juke joint. Lindberg loves American music and is happy to play it.

