

Marcus Johnson

Critics

'it has been written'

Allmusic.com Review

Paula Edelstein

July 2007

The Phoenix is Marcus Johnson's 10th recording and features 11 brand new songs from both new and established songwriters. The keyboardist/composer/producer offers a solid and balanced set filled with urban grooves, contemporary jazz, R&B and hip hop with a little help from friends...Johnson's collage of wide ranged and interesting material is capped off with the radio hit "The Road To Los Suenos," a real smooth burner with vocals by Nikki Gonzalez that should have the club scene happening with its thumping evocation of R&B and ebullient rhythms. This song is hot and a sure sign that The Phoenix's track list is too...Marcus Johnson has never forgotten his core audience but The Phoenix is sure to garner more international fans at the other end of the musical spectrum because of the reworked Latin-funk fusion. Recommended.

Amazon.com

July 2007

"The Phoenix" combines smooth mellow tunes and upbeat make you want to tap your feet vibes. He works wonders on those keys.

Houston Defender

July 2007

"Currently one of smooth jazz radio's most popular new discs, The Phoenix is Johnson's best work to date."

Jazzreview.com

July 2007

"Johnson's long awaited studio album celebrates his spirit of love, faith and making it happen. His 11 new grooves of contemporary jazz and R&B are dedicated to his decade-long musical foray."

Washingtonpost.com – Rhome Anderson

July 2007

"The ubiquitous and ever-popular contemporary jazz keyboardist and Georgetown University grad deftly mixes jazz with a touch of funk and R&B."

Washingtonpost.com – Mike Joyce

July 2004

Review of "Just Doing What I Do"

"The best tracks invariably find him reaching beyond lite-jazz atmospherics into R&B and elsewhere, whether cleverly re-arranging the Alicia Keys hit "If I Ain't Got You," smoothly reworking Beyonce's "Me, Myself and I" or teaming up with vocalist Scooby on the funk lament "Same Thang."



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Bermuda Jazz Festival

Fall 2003 Show Review

"Marcus Johnson opened the set with another fine performance of about 40 minutes of the highest quality instrumental jazz and getting the audience in the mood."

Pointed Magazine

Christine Procter

2004

"After Marcus Johnson finished his set last night at Blues Alley in Georgetown, our staff could see why we're told that he is "the hottest jazz pianist out right now."

Nassau Guardian

Vanessa C. Rolle

September 2006 Profile

"I've become a fan myself, having gotten a taste of the rhythms for this article. I'm feeling him and I'm feeling real good. The music assuages and caresses, molds and makes you, hugs....softly, tantalizes and soothes the soul."

DC Style

Gina Montefusco

October 2005

"For a jazz musician who appears so calm onstage, Marcus Johnson is a restless man. He spends his mornings on a radio show, his days running a record label and his nights playing gigs. What he doesn't do much of is sleep – he averages about four hours a night between late jazz shows and a 3 a.m. wake up call for his morning show on Smooth Jazz 105.9."

Billboard

Steven Graybow

November 2002

"Johnson's modus operandi intrinsically refutes the notion that an artist cannot take control of every aspect of their career."

Emerge

Betsy Peoples

June 1999 Profile

"Johnson is in his own world. A small vein on the right side of his face pulsates and beads of sweat gather at his temple. He's sweating so much that his glasses begin a slow slide south, but he risks a quick hand to push them back in place. This is Johnson feeding his hometown crowd of mostly young professionals eager to hear his "urban jazz" – a combination of hip-hop and something known as 'smooth jazz'."



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