

**Cowboy Justice**

Bassist Ben Allison's tunes are both sour and beautiful, and they're studded with mesmerizing sound effects. His new quartet, with guitarist Steve Cardenas, trumpeter Ron Horton and drummer Jeff Ballard, interact like the gears of a fine watch. There's no denying his musical genius.

— STEVE GARMHAUSEN, NEWARK STAR-LEDGER

Enhancing his reputation as one of jazz's best under-40 composers, bassist Ben Allison has turned out an engaging album. Each piece has a characteristic atmosphere, though what predominates is a slightly melancholy energy, almost a well-modulated anger at times.

—INDY STAR

"Cowboy Justice" doesn't sound inherently like a protest album. . . . the music itself emits a joyous exuberance. Together the band makes a virtue of simplicity, often pushing toward a pulsating, layered sense of groove.

— NATE CHINEN, NEW YORK TIMES

He's always moving on to new turf while maintaining a distinct sound. Now working with a quartet, Allison has created some of his most urgent and compelling music. It's difficult to find a jazz record as filled with fresh, cliché-free voices as Cowboy Justice.

— BASS PLAYER

At first the song structures seem fairly straightforward, but they quickly reveal themselves to be full of rhythmic intricacies and harmonic complexity. Without ever resorting to cliché, the group integrates the visceral quality of rock music in subtle and inventive ways within the lyrical melodies and churning riffs.

— TROY COLLINS, ALL ABOUT JAZZ

Ben Allison's modern jazz quartet brings a fresh spirit to his latest project with sensual impressions that relate to the world around us. The result is a varied soundscape of lovely melodies filled with spontaneity and charm. Cowboy Justice, with its many colors and personal sense of adventure, comes highly recommended.

— JIM SANTELLA, ALL ABOUT JAZZ

Jazz bassist Ben Allison debuts a new quartet designed for insistent compositions that manage, as usual, to be complex and hummable, emotionally engaging and intellectually challenging.

— MEL MINTER, ALLIBI.COM

"Cowboy Justice," Ben Allison (Palmetto): Jazz bassist Allison has set a high standard for forward-thinking improvisation, and here he maintains that standard brilliantly. [One of the] 10 best jazz albums of 2006.

— CALVIN WILSON, ST LOUIS TODAY