



Palmetto Records 2131

[Allison is] an iconoclastic bassist and composer. One of the best jazz releases of the year.

— TIME OUT CHICAGO

Whenever some fool goes on about the death of jazz, play that misguided soul some of "Little Things Run the World," the latest album from New York bassist Ben Allison and his band Man Size Safe. This is assuredly jazz that deconstructs all influences, with harmonic chromaticism in an intriguing dialogue with hummable modal melodies.

— LA TIMES

Hands down, this bassist/ composer's newest is the primo jazz release of 2008 so far and promises to stand tall as one of the year's best. Ben Allison's music has all the earmarks of jazz in motion to a higher evolutionary plateau.

- BILLBOARD

Allison's facility for conjuring lush soundscapes from a limited instrumental palette places him in a rarefied league. Seamlessly integrated into his acoustic writing, Allison's recent foray into the electro-acoustic world reveals an organic mastery over pop song structures and timbres.

- ALL ABOUT JAZZ

Ben Allison pulled off a neat trick on his new CD. The jazz bassist wrote songs that bustle with the full melodies of pop yet never indulge their obviousness or ease. They manage a rare feat for modern jazz: They feel equally accessible and avant. It doesn't hurt the music's curb appeal that the songs hint at sources many of us have long known and loved. In their jazz-rock fusion, Allison's songs recall Miles Davis' "Bitches Brew," aided by Ron Horton's contemplative trumpet. In their cinematic sweep and sensuality they touch on the chic of Burt Bacharach (best defined by Horton's other instrument: the flugelhorn). In their dollops of dissonance they veer toward art-rock, with rumbles of King Crimson sneaking in every so often.

- NY DAILY NEWS

New York bassist and composer Ben Allison has pushed jazz's boundaries since his debut. Veering closer to rock and American folk music than ever before, Allison has made perhaps the most accessible record of his career. Allison's playing and writing have taken a great step for with Little Things.

- BASS PLAYER

Ben Allison shoves at the edges of bebop, funk, dense orchestral composition, and all of the little musical pockets that form between them. It's the perfect blend of wandering weirdness and play, rhythmic groove, and intense musical choreography

- BALTIMORE CITY PAPER

The combination of folk intrigue, jazz sophistication and rock 'n' roll punch is a rare but entirely welcome one. The overarching effect of Little Things is that it makes the mouth water for what Allison might do next.

- JAZZ TIMES

All of Allison's trademarks are evident on the new recording: the rich melodies, the exciting rhythms, the intuitive interplay, and the mixing and matching of genres within the framework of a song. The music could be dubbed jazz, rock, Americana, call it what you will, it sparkles with invention.

- HARTFORD COURANT