

# THE CRITICS WEIGH IN ON BRIAN LYNCH'S "UNsung HEROES" PROJECT:

*"The series is more than a tribute; it's an effort to preserve and perpetuate the bop legacy...While releases like *Unsung Heroes* appear with some frequency, few sound as accomplished or exuberant."*

**ERIC FINE, Downbeat** (\*\*\*\* 5 Star Review, July 2011 Issue)

*"Brian Lynch's valid thesis is that the great jazz trumpet tradition has been created not only by towering figures like Louis and Dizzy and Miles, but by second-echelon players like Tommy Turrentine, Idrees Sulieman, Louis Smith, Claudio Roditi, Kamau Adilifu, Joe Gordon, Ira Sullivan and Charles Tolliver... Lynch is an articulate trumpet player with his own polished concept, and he does not attempt to mimic the styles of his heroes. His tributes go deeper...Most of all, what makes these tributes authentic is the high level of creative execution throughout Lynch's sextet."*

**THOMAS CONRAD, Jazz Times**

*"This isn't the first sort of "legacy" project in your discography but it seems to be the one getting the most attention...the web site *Unsung Heroes* volumes 2 and 3 are beautiful, too, not to mention the full liner notes... The unearthing of these unrecorded compositions is a major contribution to these musicians you're celebrating."*

**LAZARO VEGA, Blue Lake Public Radio**

*"Whether or not they realize it, jazz players owe a serious nod to the many musicians through the years who have influenced and helped shape the branches on the musical tree...not just the household name players, but the many others – active or deceased – who've been innovators in their own way. Brian Lynch understands this big time...Lynch and his band (pianist Rob Schneiderman, saxophonists Vincent Herring and Alex Hoffman, bassist David Wong, drummer Pete Van Nostrand and conguero Vicente "Little Johnny" Rivero) take the music of the aforementioned innovators and add their own contemporary stamp. It is a beautiful project... Lynch has developed a great way to pay forward the influences that he absorbed. May he not be the last to do so."*

**KEN FRANCKLING, Jazz Notes**

*"It's easy to sing the praises of *Unsung Heroes*. From trumpeter Brian Lynch, it's a crisp, hard-bopping session for sextet that frequently bears a certain, uplifting Jazz Messengers vibe... With consistently strong solos and impeccable ensemble work, this disc conveys great reverence and respect with great eloquence."*

**PETER HUM, The Ottawa Citizen, jazzblog.ca**

**DOWNBEAT**  
Jazz, Blues & Beyond SINCE 1934

## **Brian Lynch *Unsung Heroes: A Tribute To Some Underappreciated Trumpet Masters***

HOLISTIC MUSICWORKS 1

★★★★★

Brian Lynch's *Unsung Heroes* honors the legacies of 10 underrated trumpet players. The series is more than a tribute; it's an effort to preserve and perpetuate the bop legacy. Lynch, who performed and recorded in the final edition of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, exhibits a full sound, good range and a bop-inspired style. *Unsung Heroes* features his peers and proteges performing a trove of obscure compositions. The opener, Joe Gordon's "Terra Firma Irma," closely resembles Donald Byrd's "Jeannine," albeit with a distinct turnaround of descending chords—Lynch and his sidemen take full advantage. Lynch is also in fine form on his tune "Further Arrivals." His intense solo on Tommy Turrentine's "Big Red" provides a nice contrast to the track's relaxed swing. But the album isn't just about Lynch. Veteran alto player Vincent Herring and tenor player Alex Hoffman also pitch in. So does pianist Rob Schneiderman, an unheralded veteran whose resume includes work with J.J. Johnson and Art Farmer. The set closes with a fast reading of Louis Smith's challenging "Wetu." While releases like *Unsung Heroes* appear with some frequency, few sound as accomplished or exuberant.

—Eric Fine

**Unsung Heroes:** Terra Firma Irma; I Could Never Forget You; Further Arrivals; Saturday Afternoon At Four; Household Of Saud; Roditi/Samba; Big Red; *Unsung Blues*; Wetu. (68:22)

**Personnel:** Brian Lynch, trumpet, flugelhorn; Vincent Herring, alto saxophone; Alex Hoffman, tenor saxophone; Rob Schneiderman, piano; David Wong, bass; Pete Van Nostrand, drums; Vicente "Little Johnny" Rivero, congas (tracks 3, 6).

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