

JazzWax

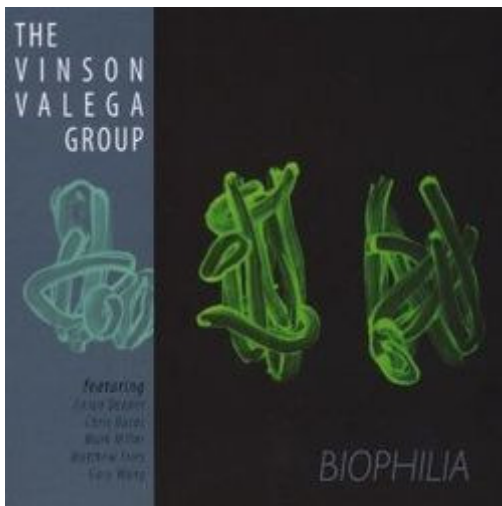
Marc Myers blogs daily on jazz legends
and legendary jazz recordings

[<http://www.jazzwax.com/2010/04/sundaywaxbits-3.html>]

April 4, 2010

Biophilia by the Vinson Valega Group has a smart, late hardbop feel. Drummer Valega keeps things moving with change-up patterns and six original compositions. While the sextet pulls toward free and modal jazz at times, it's merely a ruse. Within a few measures, songs return to structure and pointed harmonies.

A Moment of Silence is a good example of this split personality. Each tune shimmers with a different energy, and pianist Matthew Fries is a standout. Go sample *November Spring*.



Marc Myers is a journalist and corporate consultant in New York City who develops content and marketing/media solutions for magazines and global clients. He is author of three books, including "How to Make Luck: 7 Secrets Lucky People Use to Succeed," which has been published in 11 countries.

He received his masters in history from Columbia University and wrote his thesis on the American Federation of Musicians' recording ban of 1942-44 -- which inadvertently accelerated the popularity of bebop and modern jazz. His thesis is part of the archives at the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University.

He has been listening to jazz since 1971.