

BILLY CHILDS

QUOTES

“The fecundity of Childs’ inventiveness—seeing colors and vignettes where others might just hear notes, progressions and musical themes—hasn’t been impacted by the pandemic, though not being able to impart his vision to the world is a bummer. But the same creative spirit that’s propelled him from the bands of bop giants as a twenty-something side-player to a composer renowned throughout concert halls and across jazz festival stages remains unhampered.”

- ***Downbeat***

“Los Angeles-born and bred, Billy Childs has built a remarkable career as a pianist, composer, and arranger... Especially gifted in working with singers and the spoken word, he’s also written numerous large-scale works for classical orchestras and chamber ensembles. Childs’ latest album *Acceptance* features the same core instrumentalists who were on the Grammy-winning [Rebirth](#) from 2018: Steve Wilson (saxophones), Hans Glawischnig (bass), and Eric Harland (drums).”

- ***Jazz Times***

“He’s also a master collaborator, a composer whose work actively transcends genre, and an approachable stylist with a proven ability to connect with the broader public. Among his many honors are five Grammy Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. His own CMA commission, awarded in 2006, funded a work for his Jazz-Chamber Ensemble—a groundbreaking project that, as its name suggests, merged improvisation and jazz rhythms with the orchestration and instrumentation of a traditional chamber ensemble.”

- ***Chamber Music America***

“As a pianist, he possesses the improvisatory skills and powerful sense of swing one associates with world-class artists... Childs is an inventive composer and arranger whose effort in those areas consistently expand the dimension of the jazz genre – and beyond.”

- ***The Los Angeles Times***

“There seems to be a rebirth of the jazz chamber music genre, and of the several examples that have crossed my desk lately I think this one is the very best. In “Lyric” Childs seeks to blend elements of jazz and classical into an organic whole. With his compositional and arranging chops he’s the perfect choice to make such a marriage work. His pianistic virtuosity ties it all together — on some tracks almost assuming the role of piano concerto.”

- ***Audiophile Audition***

“With its gorgeous melodies, harmonic beauty, deeply moving lyrical depictions, *Lyric* captures the emotional complexities of people, places, and events with class and style.”

- ***All About Jazz***

“Tonight (Childs) held his capacity audience riveted with his exquisite touch, his fertile improvisational capacity and his phenomenal ear. His accompaniment lifted his soloists to even grander levels, particularly Colley and Blade when they got their chances in the spotlight. His own improvisational contribution was spectacular here and there, but mainly it was deeply musical and aesthetically commanding.”

- ***The Hollywood Reporter***

“With this deeply spiritual 45-minute work, the four-time Grammy® -nominated pianist and composer plunges into a musical world that explodes with an astonishing array of moods and colors: harmonically rich, rhythmically provocative and breathtakingly profound - "The Voices of Angels" grabs an audience by the jugular and never lets go. If, as Leonard Bernstein once said, "music can make the unknowable, knowable and the incommunicable, communicable," then Childs has, undeniably, written a work for the ages.”

- ***Victoria Looseleaf, The Los Angeles Master Chorale***

"L.A. pianist Childs has been a sideman with Joe Henderson and Freddie Hubbard, and his maturity and poise have grown steadily with each of his own discs. Here, with ace cohorts like trumpeter Terence Blanchard (who deals both in smoky romantic melodies and snaky bebopping), rising saxist Steve Wilson, bassist Dave Holland and drummer Jeff Watts, he dives into fresh and inventive charts for standards and originals that organically frame the striking solos. This band stretches your ears while tugging at your soul."

- ***Daily News***

"Pianist Billy Childs' *The Child Within* is a pleasingly complex affair. Here's modern mainstream swing that blends intrepid arrangements with superb playing. Clever takes on 'Lover Man' and 'Alone Together' mix nicely with well-conceived originals. Childs has always been a compelling player, but *The Child Within* finds his invention at a new level. It helps that he's surrounded by the best: Dave Holland, Terence Blanchard, Steve Wilson, and Jeff Watts all make the moves sound authoritative.

- ***Billboard Jazz Blue Notes***