

# All About Jazz

Home » Articles » Album Review

ADVERTISE

LIKE 4



SHOWCASE

## Francesco Amenta: Midtown Walk

BY EDWARD BLANCO  
September 6, 2021  
Sign in to view read count

Italian-born, New York-based tenor saxophonist Francesco Amenta presents his American debut recording *Midtown Walk*, his second project as leader, offering seven original compositions and a cover tune ("Come Sunday") from Duke Ellington whose music he admires. Now an international recording artist, Amenta paid his dues performing in Italy and attended the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Holland in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has a long and rich tradition with jazz music. Now a New Yorker, Amenta quickly immersed himself in the vibrant jazz scene of the Big Apple where the talent-rich city led him to perform with two Greek-born musicians, bassist Kimon Karoutzos and drummer Gary Kerkezou, whom he would draw upon to record this album. Completing the quartet is none other than legendary pianist Cyrus Chestnut, who brings his own stylish key work for this endeavor as one will note on the first tune and the swinging "Burgundy 45."



Play Francesco Amenta on Amazon Music Unlimited (ad)

This full-throated saxophonist quickly dispels any notion of being a novice with his formidable chops on the opening "Dancing," written for his wife Costanza, a dancer herself except that the tune is not a dance number, but rather the opening salvo of an album full of traditional straight-ahead jazz with a bebop element at its core. "Home" provides plenty of solo space for the leader, where apparently he feels right at home. Bassist Karoutzos introduces the lengthy "Bunch of Time," then turns the music over to the rest of the group to establish the melody on the first of three eight-minutes plus numbers on the album.

A taste of the progressive bebop/cool jazz sound comes shining through on the fast-tempo splashy "Number 9," featuring a delicious call and response moment between the pianist and the leader on a piece where the drummer makes her mark. The tempo slows down dramatically on the warm and gentle ballad of "06/22," a truly enchanting chart and a departure from the other songs.

The almost twelve-minute "Come Sunday," brings the *Midtown Walk* session to a close, marking one impressive outing and the start of more to come from Francesco Amenta, a talented player and composer we will probably hear more from in the future. Well done!

★★★★☆

### Track Listing

Dancing; Home; Bunch Of Time; Number 9; 06/22; Travellers; Burgundy; Come Sunday.

### Personnel

Francesco Amenta: saxophone, tenor; Cyrus Chestnut: piano; Kimon Karoutzos: bass; Gary Kerkezou: drums.

### Album Information

Title: *Midtown Walk* | Year Released: 2021 | Record Label: Amenta Music International

### Post A Comment About This Album

0 Comments All About Jazz Disqus' Privacy Policy Login

Favorite Tweet Share Sort by Newest

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

DISQUS

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Do Not Sell My Data

About Francesco Amenta

Articles | Tour | Music | Photos | Similar | Search | Shop

### WATCH

Come Sunday (feat. Cyrus Chestnut, Kimon Karoutzos & Gary Kerkezou)

Guarda più... Condividi

FRANCESCO AMENTA  
CYRUS CHESTNUT  
KIMON KAROUTZOS  
GARY KERKEZOU

MIDTOWN WALK

Guarda su YouTube

### TAGS

- Francesco Amenta
- Album Review
- Edward Blanco
- Mouthpiece Music
- Midtown Walk
- Amenta Music International
- duke ellington
- Kimon Karoutzos
- Gary Kerkezou
- CYRUS CHESTNUT

### SHOP AMAZON

### MORE

Once Upon A Time - Live In Avignon  
Eberhard Weber

Codebreaker  
Matthew Shipp

Monsters' Impromptu  
Lee Heerspink

A Song Of Hope  
Eric Wyatt

Dots - Works For Percussion And Woodwinds  
Roscoe Mitchell

Colours  
Ksenia Parkhatskaya

First Flight To Tokyo: The Lost 1961 Recordings  
Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers

I Don't Mind Missing You  
Lady Millea

### POPULAR

Chasin' The Trane Revisited  
John Coltrane

Silver Lining Suite  
Hiromi

Mirror Mirror  
Eliane Elias

Gullfoss  
Nadje Noordhuis

Long Distance Connections  
Lukasz Pawlik

Selflessness - The Music Of John Coltrane  
Dave Liebman's Expansions

Overpass  
Marc Johnson

3x3: Piano Trios: October 2021

### GET MORE OF A GOOD THING

Our weekly newsletter highlights our top stories and includes your local jazz events calendar.

Enter your email address SIGN ME UP!

### CONNECT

- Welcome!
- Getting Started
- Staff Directory
- Contact Us
- Support FAQ

### FOR PROS

- Musician Primer
- Musician Toolkit
- Guide to Promotion
- Musician Finder
- Teacher Finder

### ADVERTISE

- Rates and Options
- Place Order

### FOLLOW

- RSS
- Embeddable Content
- Newsletter
- Twitter
- Facebook

