

Critical Praise for *Evoke*

“Stan Killian is reminiscent of Jimmy Heath in that his compositions and tenor saxophone work make each other better.”

-Brit Robson, Jazztimes, June 24, 2013

“Killian is a joy to listen to, with a singular sound and texture. His tone is mostly smooth and even-tempered but he can blow with a streetwise grittiness or soar to the heavens. Killian’s familiarity with the members of his working band allows him to compose within their collective and individual strengths; the band, in turn, know exactly what Killian wants and the simpatico results in top notch music, which is what makes *Evoke* such a rewarding experience.”

-Terrell Holmes, NYC Jazz Record, May 2013 | No. 133

“The title track [*Evoke*] is a ballad that allows for more room, Killian’s full throated tenor less aggressive and more contemplative.”

-John Ephland, Downbeat, July 2013

“Killian isn’t too well known outside of Manhattan, where he’s played regularly at [The] 55 Bar, but nobody who plays like this remains anonymous for very long. Check out *Evoke*.”

-Paul Weideman, Pasatiempo, April 26, 2013

“*Tuneful Modes and Masterful Attack from Saxophonist Stan Killian:* Texas-bred, New York-based tenor saxophonist Stan Killian has a gift for melodic transparency that makes a solid springboard for soloing and individual contributions. Yet while the group and solo performances on Killian’s new album *Evoke* are terse and direct, the compositions are what really jump out at you- that and Killian’s playing. He has a clear, uncluttered tone and a refreshingly direct melodic sensibility, with a passion for modal vamps and keen ear for microtones that he bends seamlessly into the songs’ fabric. And what he’s doing isn’t simply bending blue notes- his attack has more in common with Joe Maneri than, say, Sonny Stitt.”

-Lucid Culture March 23, 2017

“The ability to make the rigorous seem casual and the unexpected seem logical- as well as Killian’s winning musicianship- are what seems to separate this disc from other merely solid mainstream recordings.”

-John Frederick Moore Jazziz, summer 2013

“Tenor Saxist and composer Stan Killian fronts a well rounded post bop quintet on this collection of well constructed and arranged originals... The delightful title track mixes piano and guitar voicings in a way that resembles Japanese folk music, while “Echolalic” has Moreno’s notes resemble droplets of dew. Well thought out and delivered. Satisfying like a 4 course meal.”

-George W. Harris, Jazz Weekly, June 13, 2013

“As a player, Killian seems destined to join the ranks of jazz greats, but you don’t need to be a jazz critic to appreciate how good Killian is. When I reviewed *Unified*, I called Killian “a force to reckon with,” and the music and playing on this current collection continues to show that Killian is a saxophonist and composer who’s going places.”

-Nick Bewsey, ICON Magazine, June 2013

“O’s Notes: Stan plays tenor sax and composed all of the music for *Evoke*. He also assembled a strong band with guitarist Mike Moreno, Benito Gonzalez (p), Corcoran Holt (b) and drummer McClenty Hunter. The program could be classified as modern jazz or fusion and either way it has soothing, cool characteristics. Lead lines are shared between Moreno, Gonzalez and Killian unselfishly. They cook on the burners like “Observation” and swing on “Hindu” and “Beekman”, just a few of the gems.”

- O’s Place, $\frac{3}{4}$, *Evoke*, May 2013