

Kim Waters - Silver Soul (2014)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Dreaming of You* 02. *On a Mission* 03. *Stay Together* 04. *Go-Go Smooth* 05. *Anything You Need (featuring Dana Pope)* 06. *Cruising Round Rock* 07. *All of Me* 08. *Fireflies (featuring Zendaya)* 09. *Let's Make Love* 10. *High Stride* 11. *A Song for Dana* 12. *Laying Beside Me (featuring Eric Roberson)* Kim Waters - saxophone, background vocals Allen Hinds – guitars Kayla Waters - piano Dana Pope, Eric Roberson, Zendaya - vocals

Saxophonist Kim Waters, the master of what I like to term as “love jazz,” is back, celebrating 25 years of laying down those sweet, seductive melodies along with up-tempo, groovalicious tunes on Kim Waters CDa new release called Silver Soul, appropriately. Choosing to not present his fans with a “best of” kind of collection, the saxman lays out brand new grooves and a couple of well-done covers – all of which are designed to take charge of you for the duration of the album.

On this effort, Waters is not only playing sax on these tracks but everything else, as well (though Allen Hinds appears on guitars, apparently splitting time there with Waters) while featuring some competent vocals from Dana Pope, Eric Roberson, and a special appearance by Zendaya.

Kicking it off with a rousing, high-steppin’ and hook-rich track called “Dreaming of You,” Waters gets knee-deep into this vibe right off the bat, following the tune with what is one of my favorite tracks here, the mid-tempo, very melodic and slickly funky “On A Mission.” Getting down to his signature business of love, “Stay Together”– at track three — can’t possibly miss with the ladies. There are not many things you can be sure of (as a classic song tells us), but one such thing has to be that this tune will succeed in capturing the heartstrings of lovers everywhere. It also goes beyond cool that vocalist Zendaya appears here to contribute by offering her own “Fireflies” in a tempo befitting that Waters sweet style.

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You can easily find examples of Waters' "love jazz" and his funkier grooves throughout this project, and he pulls no punches, giving each track his all. It is clearly the reason he has remained relevant and at the top of his game for a quarter century. People know great jazz when they hear it. Having presented us with such hip hop and R&B projects laced with jazz as his Streetwize series and adding these signature demonstrations of original grooves, the man clearly shows that he knows all of the formulas for what moves and calls to that jazzer who wants it all.

Silver Soul, in its solid delivery, is truly a great way to celebrate Waters' longevity in a business that, at times, can get monotonous without the dedication to give fans what they need: Originality, class, and that genuine feel-good vibe. --- Ronald Jackson, thesmoothjazzride.com

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