

## Azar Lawrence News 12.16.09

Ratcheting up his jazz creds, Saxist Azar Lawrence is onto something with over thirty years under his belt as a practitioner of the music. His performance July 2009 at the Greater Hartford 18th Annual Jazz Festival elicited accolades and a memorable performance. A week later he and Pianist Benito Gonzalez headed to Montana astounding the audience here for days after that show. Writing and producing two CD's Speak The Word and Prayer For My Ancestors, leading and co-producing a live tribute album, Legacy and Music of John Coltrane, within the past three years, Azar is experiencing a revival.

In his review of Prayer For My Ancestors and Speak The Word in AllAboutJazz, November 2009, Francis Lo Kee , wrote,

"The two modern CDs reviewed here display a saxophonist with no less power and skill but perhaps an organically broader pallet of expression" and "..... Every track on both of these CDs features a master saxophonist, blowing expressively clear and strong solos throughout."

About Legacy and Music of John Coltrane, Marc Medwin, wrote in the AllAboutJazz, September 2009 issue,

"Lawrence's two-saxophone group presents a more heated approach on Legacy and Music of John Coltrane, his hard-edged sound, honed through early experience with former Coltrane pianist McCoy Tyner, exuding wisdom."

Azar's latest production Mystic Journey on Furthermore Recordings release scheduled for Spring 2010, will without a doubt again place Azar amongst jazz's supreme saxophonist. Mystic Journey is expected to be a stellar production by the saxophonist as his evolution goes forth. New works written by Azar, Benito Gonzalez, and the late great Rashied Ali are featured on Mystic Journey. Bonuses like McCoy Tyner's Walk Spirit Talk Spirit a recording where Azar partnered with the great pianist on the original recording, Enlightenment Suite Live at Montreaux, Switzerland 1974, and one of his seminal works as a leader Summer Solstice will make this CD one of Jazz's best in 2010.

## Other News . . .

**Azar Lawrence - Prayer for My Ancestors received Honorable Mention AllAboutJazz/NY Best New Release 2009**

### In 2010

**March 6** Azar Lawrence Quartet featuring Benito Gonzalez at **Alva's Performance Gallery, San Pedro, Ca**

**March 9** Azar Lawrence Quartet featuring Benito Gonzalez performs at **Yoshi's Oakland, Ca**

**March 10** Azar Lawrence Quartet featuring Benito Gonzalez performs at **JimmyMaks, Portland, Or**

**March 12&13** Azar Lawrence Quartet featuring Benito Gonzalez performs at **DalyJazz, Missoula, MT**

Azar performs **May 1 2010** at the **Kumble Theatre, Long Island University, Long Island, NY** It's Time "Max Roach" Tribute as part of the Brian Jackson, Lenny White project.

**May 7 2010** Azar premieres Mystic Journey with his Septet featuring, Eddie Henderson, (t); Billy Hart, (d ) Benito Gonzalez, p; Essiet Essiet (b); and Gerald Hayes, (a, sax), led by Azar in a "**Tribute To Lost**

**Treasures" - Ali's Alley at the Tribeca Performing Art's Center, New York, NY.**

**August 13&14** Azar Lawrence Quartet featuring Benito Gonzalez performs at **Smalls Jazz Club, New York, NY**

2010 Confirmed - Dates set to be added Detroit Music Hall's, Jazz Cafe, Detroit, MI, Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY

### More News ....

New website launched with new pictures and sound, link below:

[Azar Lawrence Website \(New\)](#)

[Prayer Tour - Info](#)

[RadioWaveOneSheet](#)

[Azar Lawrence Quartet - Hartford - Picture](#)

[Azar Lawrence Septet - Dizzys - Picture](#)

[Booking Info](#)

Contact: [Admin@azarlawrence.com](mailto:Admin@azarlawrence.com)

**Please think Green before you print**