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## ContemporaryJazz.com



### Review

#### Matt Marshak

*This Time Around*  
 Nuance Music Group  
 Review by Jeff Charney

The sophomore release from guitarist Matt Marshak just blew me away. Winner of CD101.9/Absolut Vodka Best New Artist Search in the summer of 2003 I was super impressed not only in Marshak's playing ability, but also in his compositions. He wrote ten out of the twelve songs on the disc. Marshak's ideas are fresh and non-predictable. For example for a guitarist to cover Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" takes balls. But Marshak changes the arrangement all around so it is his own composition just using a familiar melody. Other Smooth Jazz artists should take note, that is the way to cover a song.



The entire CD isn't just instrumentals. On the back half there is one stretch of 5 vocal tracks in a row. These aren't necessarily the best songs on the disc, but the melodies are fun and the guitar playing is top notch. Take "Nu Day." Even though there is some minimal humming the guitar runs stop you and make you just sit and listen. Same goes for a lot of the earlier instrumentals. The first song on the disc "Good Evening" is so full on energy, guitar runs, a nice melody and the flute part was excellently placed. It is the right song to make you bob your head. "Tell Me Why" has some spicy R&B funk, while "Autumn Breeze" has some deep, soul to it. The New York area residents have an opportunity to see him play, the rest of us should get this disc until he comes to our home towns. At the time of this writing *This Time Around* is available thru cdbaby.com while Marshak's debut, *Preservation* is available at amazon.com.

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## Sunday Jazz

