

Featured Artist: Doug Talley Quartet

CD Title: Kansas City Suite

Year: 2001

Record Label: Serpentine

Style: Straight-Ahead / Classic

Musicians: Doug Talley (tenor, soprano saxophone); Wayne Hawkins (piano); Tim Brewer (bass); Keith Kavanaugh (drums).**Review:** Devotees in all parts of the world acknowledge Kansas City's importance in the evolution of jazz. A city native, saxophonist, Doug Talley, offers his Kansas City Suite recorded in May 2001. The suite is presented in ten movements highlighting eras and events in the recent history of the metropolis.

Two movements deal directly with jazz and important musicians. The first track is titled 1600 E. 18th Street and commemorates Charlie Parker and the clubs that once occupied the 18th and Vine neighborhood. Presently the site of the Blue Room, the area was once home to The Panama, Lucille's Band Box, The Elks' Rest and the revered Subway Club owned by Piney Brown. Another movement is a tribute to Count Basie and Lester Young. Titled Basie and the Prez, the piece captures the feel of Kansas City swing and is loaded with delightful "Basieisms" delivered by Wayne Hawkins.

Other movements deal with landmarks such as the statues atop tall buildings and the whimsical shuttlecock sculptures on the lawn of the Nelson-Atkins Gallery. Both are either loved or hated by the citizenry.

The late Harry Truman is still revered in the city and his memory is honored in The Buck Stops Here. The man who ruled Kansas City through the 20s and 30s, Tom Pendergast, is recalled in a movement titled simply "Pendergast." The piece varies in mood as it commemorates one of America's most colorful characters.

Doug Talley is a music educator and clinician for Selmer instruments. He has performed with Bobby Watson, Randy Brecker, Bob Mintzer and Kaycee's own Jay McShann. It's been more than sixty years since McShann immortalized the city with his Vine Street Boogie and now Doug Talley follows up with his fine suite.

This session was recorded at a live concert in May 2001. The quartet's style falls squarely in the Mainstream of jazz and it's a gem. Talley's colorful approach to the Suite is to be admired. Kansas City Suite is entertaining, exciting and perfectly rendered. I love this album!

Tracks: 1600 E. 18th Street; City of Fountains; The Sleeping Child; The Buck Stops Here; Stockyard Blues; Basie And The Prez; Sky Stations; Plaza Lights; Shuttlecocks; Pendergast.**Artist's Website:** <http://www.dougtalley.com>**Reviewed by:** Richard Bourcier for Jazzreview.com