

Review of *Moving On* Album, March 14, 2019

Album Release- May 17, 2019

### ***Moving On***

Lannie Battistini is a talented pianist and a busy arranger-composer. Born in Puerto Rico, he began playing piano when he was five, was self-taught, and began playing jobs in public when he was 15. Battistini earned a degree from Berklee, developed into a strong pop/jazz pianist, toured with the Latin pop artist Olga Tanon, and has had a busy career as a record producer for independent artists. He has operated Hands In Motion Music (a label, music school and marketing agency) since 1998 while continuing his performing career.

*Moving On* features Battistini performing eight of his originals plus the standard "Caravan." Joined by a supportive rhythm section, Juan Vergara (who is often prominent in the ensembles) on congas, and several guests, the pianist is in the forefront much of the time, floating above the grooves.

Starting with the soothing and easy-listening "Hands In Motion," Battistini performs such numbers as the playful "Baby Boy," "Moving On" (which has a singalong melody worthy of having lyrics), and "Feels So Right" which at times recalls Ramsey Lewis. "Em Seus Olhos (In Your Eyes)," is a particularly appealing piece and features some hot flute playing by Kalani Trinidad. "Caravan" is given a Latin interpretation with violinist Lemay Olano James a strong asset. *Moving On* concludes with the infectious vamp piece "Emotion Devotion," the romantic "Precious Love" and the joyous "Show Me."

Lannie Battistini's arrangements, which utilize Jorge Dobal's riffing trombones on three numbers and occasionally background vocalists, consistently set attractive moods. While *Moving On* can serve as superior background music and its subtle rhythms are always danceable, it rewards a closer listen to the fluent pianist. Hopefully he will make many more recordings in the future.

### **-Scott Yanow**

Jazz Journalist/Historian and author of 11 books. Contributor to *Downbeat*, *Jazziz*, *The New York City Jazz Record*, *The Syncopated Times*, *The Jazz Rag from England*, *Jazz Artistry Now*, *Jazz Monthly* and *The Los Angeles Jazz Scene*.