

Stewy von Wattenwyl Generations Band: Live At Marians



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Swiss pianist Stewy von Wattenwyl blasts into this high energy set, *Live at Marians*, with a blistering one-two punch of [Wes Montgomery's](#) "Fried Pies" and [John Coltrane's](#) "Moments Notice." The leader pounds the keys in a [McCoy Tyner](#) mode, and saxophonist [Eric Alexanders](#) sounds raw and just barely tamed. This is not a sound that can be called laidback; this is a gale force wind gusting into town.

Von Wattenwyl, a well-versed keyboardist, has a discography that includes a fine trio outing, *Dienda* (Brambus Records, 2005), a ham-hocks-in-the-collard-greens organ/sax/drums/trumpet affair with *Wabash* (Bemsha Music, 2005), and a previous outing with Alexander, *Live at Bird's Eye* (Roving Sirits, 2003). The live setting definitely agrees with the Swiss keyboardist. The music on *Live at Marians* crackles with spontaneity, and nobody is being careful. These guys came to kick down the doors and play some jazz.

The band slows the pace on the Kahn/Van Heusen standard "All the Way," with von Wattenwyl displaying a tender touch behind Alexander's soulful horn. [Tom Harrell's](#) "Terrestris" cranks things back to a mid-tempo on the tightest performance of the night. The pianist opens [Bill Evans' "Very Early"](#) with a beautifully inward intro, before the saxophone comes in with a ringing tone.

The power's back on in a down tempo way with [Sonny Rollins' "Sonnymoon for Two."](#) Alexander digs deep, like Rollins, and the entire band seems particularly inspired and interactive on this down and dirty take, as Von Wattenwyl crafts a superb solo that takes flight in front of a rubbery rhythm.

[Stanley Turrentine's "Stan's Shuffle"](#) features Wattenwyl and the band at their free-swinging best, wrapping things up with a tune that must have had the audience up out of their chairs and dancing.

Track Listing: Fried Pies; Moments Notice; All The Way; Terrestris; Very Early; Sonnymoon For Two; On the Trail; Stan's Shuffle..

Personnel: Stewy von Wattenwyl: piano; Reggie Johnson: bass; Kevin Chesham: drums; Eric Alexander: tenor saxophone.

Title: [Live at Marians](#) | Year Released: 2009 | Record Label: [Bemsha Music](#)