

## DOM MINASI BIOGRAPHY

It's not common to hear a guitarist mentioned in the same vein as adventurous players like Eric Dolphy, John Coltrane and Cecil Taylor, but Dom Minasi is not your common type of guitarist. Like many highly creative artists, Dom needs a variety of contexts to express the full range of his musical vision by maintaining several separate groups,

Born on March 6, 1943 (sharing a birthday with legendary guitarist Wes Montgomery), Dom is a 50-year veteran of the music scene, with a history and scope of activities as varied and jam-packed as his native New York City.

Backing up top singing groups at rock 'n' roll shows, church dances and the like while still in his early teens, Dom has maintained a jazz trio with bass and drums since he was 15 years old. But education has also played a major role in his overall musical activities. "By the time I was 20, I had more than 100 students, but I cut it down to 95 so I could play six nights a week."

A lot of those nights were spent backing up, and providing musical direction for vocalists, something that Dom has continued to do since 1964 and almost exclusively until 1973, when his own trio began to really take shape, coming to the attention of George Butler who had taken the reins at Blue Note from the label's visionary founder and producer, Alfred Lion.

After recording two albums for Blue Note, *When Joanna Loved Me and I Have The Feeling I've Been Here Before*, Dom felt the business of Jazz was not for him. So from 1976-1993, Dom involved himself in a variety of pursuits such as freelancing, recording dates as a sideman, and occasionally performing with the late, great pianist Dennis Moorman and his organ quartet featuring Dr. Lonnie Smith. Composing the music for a variety of off-Broadway shows, authoring three books for Sunrise Artistries, two books on jazz theory and chord substitution and one on improvising. Returning to school where he studied with Academy Award-winning (*The Red Violin*) composer John Corigliano at Lehman College, receiving his degree in composition in 1990.

He also composed over 300 vocal and instrumental compositions during those years, as well as creating **Literacy Through Songwriting Workshops** for grades one through six for the New York City Board of Ed.

Fellow musicians kept trying to get Dom more involved with the regular scene but he continued to resist. "I'm happy. I do my workshops with the kids. I'm doing great. Why do I need the aggravation?" was his general response. But finally in 1993 he began to take an interest again, becoming principal composer for the Manhattan Improvisational Chamber Ensemble (MICE) and began to work on various projects of his own. By 1996, he was in the thick of it, but entirely on his own terms.

That includes recording his own critically acclaimed album *Finishing Touches* and *Dialing Privileges*, co-led with **Blaise Siwula & John Bollinger** both for CIMP

**Records.** Arranging all the music for the 1997 revival of *Torch Song Trilogy*; writing his fourth and fifth books **The Singer's Guide to Reading Rhythms** and **A Guitarist Ultimate Guide To Chord Construction and Substitution** and publishing over one hundred new songs.

Deciding to keep total control over his career and what he musically produces, Dom and his wife, vocalist Carol Mennie formed CDM Records and CDM, Inc. (Can Do More, Inc.) a not-for profit organization where Dom is president and Artistic Director and Carol is Vice President and Assistant Artistic Director. CDM, Inc.'s mission statement is to promote music & theatre activities within the educational systems of public schools and colleges throughout the United States.

His 2001 CDM release, *Takin' The Duke Out*, recorded Live at the Knitting Factory in New York City, featuring fresh interpretations of classic Ellington compositions, took the jazz community by storm and caused such a controversy that critics and musicians alike are still talking about it. *Goin' Out Again* followed in 2002 focusing on a combination of originals and jazz classics, also receiving enormous critical acclaim.

Again in 2003, CDM released *Time Will Tell*, DDT + 2, with cellist Tomas Ulrich and bassist Ken Filiano, augmented by John Bollinger on drums and vocalist Carol Mennie, which caused huge ripples in the pond of progressive music, showing the gentler, but no less provocative side of this extraordinary guitarist/composer.

Staying on top up the crest, Dom's 2004 release, *Quick Response* (CDM1005) was herald as one of the best recordings of that season. Topping it off, on the same day, CDM Records released Carol Mennie's debut album *I'm Not A Sometime Thing*, an exciting project very close to Dom & Carol's heart. This record was produced and arranged by Dom and to show the expansiveness of Minasi's talent, Dom also played on and wrote all's the arrangements and the music and lyrics to five of the songs.

Inspired by Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles*, Dom Minasi's 2006 release, and considered by many his most adventurous outing since CDM Records came into existence, *The Vampire's Revenge* is a double disc set of original through composed pieces. Using his trio, with bassist Ken Filiano and drummer Jackson Krall as an anchor, this record has an amazing cast of guest artists throughout the CD. Musicians such as: Joe McPhee, Matthew Shipp, Steve Swell, Borah Bergman and Perry Robinson are among the twenty two musicians on this recording. Some of the tracks have up to thirteen musicians and are conducted by Byron Olson, a long time associate of Dom's from his Blue Note days.

His September 2007 recording, *The Jon Hemmersam\*Dom Minasi Quartet featuring Ken Filiano (bass) and Kresten Osgood (drums)* is a collaboration of two guitarists from two different continents. Jon and Kresten live in Denmark. This record is a fusion of American and European original jazz played from an 'inside-out' approach.

In April 2009 Dom recorded for, **reKonstruKt, Records, The Dom Minasi String Quartet's Dissonance Makes The Heart Grow Fonder** which was later release on **Konnex Records**, featuring Dom on nylon string guitar, Jason Kao Hwang (violin), Tomas Ulrich (cello) and Ken Filiano (contrabass) is again another musical direction and

a totally different sound. This group is a real combination of contemporary 21<sup>st</sup> century composition coupled with modern improvisation. Six months later in April 2010 **reKonstruKt, Records** released *Blaise Siwula \* Dom Minasi 'Live' At The Matt Bevel Institute* followed by The Dom Minasi Sextet's *The Bird, The Girl and The Donkey-* and in September 2011 **reKonstruKt, Records** released Dom's first solo recording, *Looking Our Looking In*. It should be noted since Dom Minasi's returned to recording as a leader, all his records for the last ten years have made the top ten charts of many jazz journalists throughout the USA, Canada and Europe.

Over his long career, Dom has worked with countless heavyweights, crossing all styles of Jazz. He's performed in venues ranging from top jazz clubs to Carnegie Hall, The Montreal Jazz Festival to the White House for President Bill Clinton, but it's musical expansion and personal growth that are his principal motivations

*“ It's all about expression, learning and growth, whether it be in music or in life and to share what we learn and give back without expectations.”*

And in true keeping with the most fundamental aspect of the great jazz tradition, Dom Minasi continues to explore and discover new ideas in pursuit of his true and most personal musical vision.

## **DOM MINASI DISCOGRAPHY**

### **AS A LEADER**

Looking Out Looking In re:KonstruKt Records  
The Bird The Girl and The Donkey re:KonstruKt Records  
Dissonance Makes The Heart Grow Fonder Konnex Records  
The Vampire's Revenge CDM 1006  
Quick Response CDM 1005  
Tim Will Tell CDM Records 1003  
Goin' Out Again CDM Records 1002  
Takin' The Duke Out CDM Records 1001  
When Joanna Loved Me Blue Note BNLA258  
I Have A Feeling I've Been Here Before Blue Note BNLA426  
Finishing Touches CIMP Records CP196

### **As A Producer**

Looking Out Looking In re:KonstruKt Records  
The Bird The Girl and The Donkey re:KonstruKt Records  
Dissonance Makes The Heart Grow Fonder Konnex Records  
The Vampire's Revenge CDM 1006  
Quick Response CDM 1005

I'm Not A Sometime Thing CDM 1004 Carol Mennie  
Time Will Tell CDM Records 1003  
Goin' Out Again CDM Records 1002  
Takin' The Duke Out CDM Records 1001

### **As A Co-leader**

Blaise Siwula \* Dom Minasi 'live' at the Matt Bevel Center-reKonstruKt Records  
Jon Hemmersam \* Dom Minasi Quartet - CDM 1008 -2007/2008  
Dialing Privileges - CIMP Records CP197- 199  
Duet Blaise Siwula and Dom Minasi

### **AS A SIDEMAN**

Red Morocco- Joe Giardullo Open Ensemble Rogue Art Records  
New York Moments Konnex Records KCD 5179  
Ron Smith Quintet - Explorations for Barbara Atlantic Revisited New Amsterdam  
60355-72432  
Elements - Leo Records CD LR241  
Play Me Hearts and Flowers Original Cast Records OC96502  
Girl Talk- Ernie Andrews High Note HCD 7073

## **DOM MINASI'S GROUPS**

**The Dom Minasi Trio:** Ken Filiano (Bass) Jay Rosen (Drums) - this is my dream group. Ken and Jay understand what I want and how to do it while they maintain their own musical integrity.

### **The Dom Minasi Trio Plus Special Guest Artists**

**Michael Jefry Stevens/Dom Minasi Duo:** Piano & Guitar duo. Michael is a joy to play with.

**Blaise Siwula (alto sax) - Dom Minasi Duet.** - The un-trodden paths and the adventures we take together make this duo an exciting ride because we never know where we will end up!

**Carol Mennie - Dom Minasi Duo** - Carol's expressiveness and sensibility with a lyric make working with her one of the most rewarding musical experiences of my career.

**Organ Trio** - Dom Minasi - guitar, Kyle Koehler-organ & Jay Rosen—drums: “an atypical organ quartet that lunges into the 21st century”

**Jon Hemmersam/ Dom Minasi Quartet featuring Ken Filiano-bass & Kresten Osgood-drums:** A true fusion of European & American 'inside out' jazz

**The Dom Minasi String Quartet featuring Dom on nylon string guitar, Jason Kao Hwang –violin, Tomas Ulrich-cello and ken Filiano on contrabass** An unusual string quartet consisting of four virtuoso musicians playing original 21<sup>st</sup> century music with modern improvisation.

## **DOM MINASI RESUME**

### **Dom Minasi - Guitarist, Composer, Arranger, Educator and Author**

#### **Performed and Worked With Many Renowned Jazz Artists To Mention A Few Such As**

Buddy Rich, Mel Lewis, Chico Hamilton, Rashied Ali, Joe Chambers, Harvey Mason, Jay Rosen, Michael T. A. Thompson, Lou Grassi, Ron McClure, Marc Johnson, Mike Richmond, Harvie S, Dominic Duval, Albey Balgochian, Cameron Brown, Ken Filiano, Peter Kowald, Mark Dresser, Adam Lane, Ed Schuller, Michael Bisio, Ratzo Harris, Tomas Ulrich, Doctor Lonnie Smith, Kyle Koehler, Stanley Cowell, Sir Roland Hanna, Michael Jeffrey Stevens, Dave Brubeck and the Long Island Symphony, Jimmy Heath, George Coleman, Houston Person, Charles Mc Pherson, Frank Foster, Arnie Lawrence, Joe Giardullo, Joe McPhee, Sabir Mateen, Ras Moshe, Remi Alvarez, Perry Robinson, Blaise Siwula, Matt Lavelle, Steve Swell, Tom Harrell, Valery Ponomarev, Herb Robertson, Jason Kao Hwang, and Ray Nance.

#### **CONCERTS AND CLUB WORK: 1998-2011**

The White House-, Carnegie Hall, Weil Recital Hall, Town Hall -, Blue Note, Sweet Basils, Birdland, CBGB'S Downstairs Lounge, C.O.M.A., Jazz Festival Tonic, Brecht Forum, The Jazz Gallery, The 5C The Matt Bevel Institute - Tucson, The Knitting Factory in New York and Los Angeles, The Rhythm Room, Phoenix, The Canterbury House - Anne Harbor MI, Erie Art Museum- Erie PA, Smoke, -NYC, various colleges and universities, Deep Listening Space, Colony Café –Woodstock, NY, An Die Live Musik- Baltimore, Sangha- Tacoma Pk- Maryland, The Stone-NYC, The Montreal and Ottawa Jazz Festivals- Canada, The Jazz Improv Convention,, The Vision Living Theatre Series, The Vision Festival-NYC 2009,20010, 20011,, The Olan jazz Festival- Mexico City, Local 269 –NYC. The Roulette Interpretation Series. NYC. The Dizzy Gillespie Benefit Concert with BillCosby

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Composed for Off-Off Broadway:

*Peripheral Vision* by Eleanor Speert.

*Pots of Money* by E. Labiche & A. Delacour.

*John & Ellen* - award-winning play by Alex Menza.

*Torch Song Trilogy* (Off-Broadway revival) wrote all musical arrangements.  
*When She Was Bad* by Sally Jane Heit - National Theatre of Washington DC.  
*Visions of Sugarplums* Soundtrack performance (Independent feature.)  
*Pit Bull* by Daniel Nemet-Nejat (Film short original music)  
*What's Beneath the Surface* by Franka Fiala  
*Living In Virtual Paradise* by Franka Fiala  
*Vile Affections* by Vanda directed by Franka Fiala  
*Almost Normal* by Sally Jane Heit directed by Gretchen Cryer  
*Burn This-* by Lansford Wilson-Revival Directed by Jeniffer Gelfer

### **PRINCIPAL COMPOSER:**

Carol Mennie-Dom Minasi Quartet & Trio, and The Dom Minasi Trio, Quartet and Quintet, The Dom Minasi Organ Trio and String Quartet

### **CO-COMPOSER:**

Blaise Siwula and Dom Minasi Duo

### **MUSICAL CONDUCTOR AND ARRANGER FOR:**

Carol Mennie, Cynthia Crane and Stan Edward, Nora Roberts

### **COMPOSITIONS:**

Over 500 pieces of music that range from jazz instrumental, children's songs, 21<sup>st</sup> Century classical music and vocal compositions

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

*Musician's Manual for Chord Substitution* - Sunrise Artistries, Inc.- Publisher  
*Principles of Harmonic Substitution* - Sunrise Artistries, Inc.- Publisher  
*Stress Points* - Sunrise Artistries, Inc.- Publisher

### **Digital Downloads at Free Hand Music.Com**

*Singer's Guide to Reading Rhythms* -D.O.M. Music Publishing  
*A Guitarist Guide to Chord Construction and Substitution-* D.O.M. Music Publishing  
*The Dom Minasi Anthology* D.O.M. Music Publishing

**For Workshop, Clinics and Teaching Go To. [www.domminasi.com](http://www.domminasi.com)**

### **EDUCATION:**

BS in Composition, CUNY  
Studies with John Corigliano, Dr. Monroe Cooper

## **HONORS:**

*Dean's List: Kingsborough Community College*

*Honors Scholarship: Lehman College, 1990*

*Jazz Anthology Book, 1977*

*Encyclopedia of Jazz, 1978-78*

*ASCAP Special Awards 1998-2011*

*Encyclopedia of Free Jazz 2005*

*Encyclopedia of Jazz Musicians 2007*

**Memberships:** ASCAP, The Recording Academy, Chamber Music America  
International Society of Improvising Musicians, Jazz Journalist Association, Classical  
Music Lounge.com, American Composers Forum

**President & Artistic Director CDM Inc. and President CDM Records**

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## **Some Quotes about Dom Minasi and His Recordings**

"One of New York's best kept secrets is finally "getting out". Hooray!" **Jim Hall**

"A true Jazz original " **Bill Milkowski**

"In the manner of Eric Dolphy...Minasi works over the harmonic and rhythmic material of each song in an extraordinary manner, managing to go places where few lesser guitarists would venture." **Cadence Magazine**

"A six string Cecil Taylor" **David Adler All About Jazz New York**

"A fearless innovator" **ASCAP**

"One of the most inventive guitarists in modern jazz."

**Dick Crockett "The Voice" 88.7fm Sacramento, Ca.**

"...as adventurous and exciting as John Coltrane"

**Brian Holland Modern Guitar**

"To describe him (Dom Minasi) adequately, one would need a new vocabulary...(just as) he is creating a new vocabulary on the guitar".

**Ron Sweetman Coda Magazine**

## **Quotes about "Takin' The Duke Out"**

“If Coltrane shattered harmony with his ‘sheets of sound,’ then Minasi is busy here picking it up again and extending it with his ‘thousand points of light that simultaneously tickles, taunts, and runs away.’”

**Charles Walker jazzreview.**

“Superb in its own right...”

**Steven H. Koenig La.Folia on line music**

“Takin' The Duke Out is a post modern monument.”

**C. Michael Bailey All About Jazz**

“A wake-up call for open-minded listeners.”

**Ted Drozdowski Phoenix.com**

“One of the most stirring and thought provoking jazz efforts of 2001.”

**Glenn Astarita All About Jazz**

“This group is coherent, inventive, and inspiring--a rare combination.”

**Nils Jacobson All About Jazz**

“A talented trio that is bold enough to approach the great Duke Ellington’s music in their own way.”

**Mark F. Turner All Music Guide**

## **Quotes about “Goin’ Out Again”**

“A guitarist who weaves musical strings in a variety of styles from Avant-garde to Free jazz, with a hard rock mentality; Minasi and trio are truly expressive and free...Only adventurous and open minded individuals need apply.”

**Mark F. Turner All about Jazz**

“ “...Dom Minasi has returned with a vengeance... ‘attitude’ is the operative word here, as the three musicians project a high level of energy, suggestive at times of the intensity of rock rather than jazz, that continues unabated throughout the CD....Minasi extends the

harmonic implication of some of jazz’s most original performers...he reassures his fast-growing base of enthusiasts that this is a guitar trio like no other recording today.”**Don Williamson Jazzreview.com**

“Midway between abstract experimentation and standards recreation, Minasi is using his plectrum like a shovel to carve out his own niche. This session should appeal to audiences who appreciate either of those genres.” **Ken Waxman Jazz Weekly**

“Dom Minasi carries the aura of a rock star. (In metaphor only; no rock here.) For a guitarist steeped in the tradition as well as the avant garde, this feature makes him special.” **Nils Jacobson All About Jazz**

## Quotes About “Time Will Tell”

“Even the most circuitous approach can produce unexpected results, and Minasi has certainly achieved something of unexpected—and rare—beauty.” **Franz A. Matzner** **All About Jazz**

“...hits with a mature force that absolutely kills.” **Charles Walker** **Sudden-Thoughts.com**

“This record is arguably the guitarist’s best to date.” **Eric J. Iannelli** **All About Jazz**

“I often have said, ‘Capture the moment and you will capture a star’, well this time the star has brought the moment to the listener in the form of creative Jazz.”

**Karl Stober** **Ejazznews.com**

“... a sound that comes across as carefully considered rather than merely self-indulgent. Strongly recommended.” **Rick Anderson** **All Music Guide**

“If you have yet to experience the work of this virtuoso avant-jazz guitar legend, **Time Will Tell** would be a great place to start.” **Dave Mc Avinchrey** **Guitar Nine**

“...serious yet elegant, a fine modern jazz recording that understands tradition without being trapped in it. “ **Phil Zampino** **The Squids Ear**

## Quotes about “Quick Response”

“Minasi’s own sheets of sound solo (What Is this Thing Called Love) will have your finger on the rewind button just to make sure you heard what you thought you did.”

**Paula Edelstein** **All About Jazz LA & San Francisco**

“With this CD, Dom Minasi is a definite maybe to be one of the best guitarists, this year, 2004.” **Dick Crockett** **The Voice 88.7 fm**

“If Minasi proves anything with this CD, it is that the singularity and unmistakable identity of his playing only are matched by its being so universally applicable. That is the hallmark of a great player.” **Jochem van Dijk** **All About Jazz**

“On his new CD ... Dom's fingers & mind are astonishing agile. It's adventurous music, but always keenly focused, & lyric.” **Dough Spencer** **Radio Australia**

“Quick Response” gets an immediate MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED from this reviewer. **Dick Metcalf** **Improvijazzation Nation**

“...he really has no peers, he is his own man.”

**Bruce Gallanter** **DMG News Letter**

## Quotes about “The Vampire’s Revenge”

(Writing about VR)” No one, however, is playing more marvelously than Minasi, whose percussive, masterly attack is both technically frightening and utterly focused on serving the music.” **Paul Olsen All About Jazz**

“... eventful epic of diverse proportions... immensely challenging music”.  
**Bruce Gallanter The Downtown Music Gallery**

I loved the Dom Minasi (The Vampire’s Revenge) Loved it! Loved It!  
**Mitch Gruber WWRW FM Radio**

“ ...Magnificent. The writing and playing is exemplary & world class” **John Hammel WNTI FM Radio**

“Pulitzer Prize material...triumphant...astonishing..”  
**Jochem van Dijk All About Jazz**

“With the release of “The Vampire’s Revenge”, Dom Minasi has surpassed his previous endeavors a hundred fold and has assuredly become THE definitive voice for the new music scene.” **Lyle Robinson Jazz Guitar Life**

“ With the Vampire’s Revenge, Dom Minasi grows out of downtown into the international jazz arena. **Rex Butters All About Jazz LA**

## Quotes About “The Jon Hemmersam / Dom Minasi Quartet”

“...it's one of the best things you've ever heard”  
**Music For America**

"... Minasi and Hemmersam are champions and should be commended."  
**Michael G. Nasto All Music Guide**

“It’s one of the finest dual-guitar convergences in quite some time, and not to be overlooked”. **Glenn Astarita All About Jazz**

“I think this CD is absolutely incredible”. **Andrea Briceno World Fusion Radio**

“...these two are great musicians: inventive, playful, conversational players of both electric and acoustic guitars”.  
**Doug Spencer Australian National Public Radio**

"Listening to this music is like gazing at a large canvass and slowly observing the many wonders of shades, colors and textures. Something new is revealed each time we listen to this gem". **Bruce Gallanter The Downtown Music Gallery**

## What Journalists, Bloggers and Musicians Are Saying About *Dissonance Makes The Heart Grow Fonder*

“Minasi investigates the open-ended possibilities of dissonant theme-building...in resounding splendor here” *Glenn Astarita All About Jazz*

“This record’s sonic richness, often hinting at synchrony, is simply arresting. The all-inclusive sound eludes any kind of separation through analytic scrutiny. The musicians’ control of their instruments is baffling; their economic delivery is nothing less than awe inspiring”. *Lyn Horton Jazz Times*

Reshaping the structure and definition of string quartet, Minasi demonstrates that it is yet another formation in which he can be innovative creatively. *Ken Waxman Jazz Word*

“...there’s an all-encompassing inquisitiveness that takes in classical as well as jazz influences. Dom and his band walk a wonderfully crooked and fascinating path. *ChrisKelsey.com*

“Consistently brilliant, ever-engaging and filled with more surprising curves than a bumpy road at night.” *Bruce Lee Gallanter, The Downtown Music Gallery*

“not only does the writing allow for valuable individual insights, but above all, it is far from being an exercise in academia, each performer brings his own personal essence to each piece”. *Liberio Farno All About Jazz -Italy*

Dom Minasi is a creative force that exceeds his own bounds and it takes skilled artists like the ones who have joined him here to give the clearest voice to his vision and stylings. In the end I agree "Dissonance" does make the heart grow fonder. I am an evolving fan! *Chuck Vecoli Jazz Review.com*

“Dissonance Makes The Heart Grow Fonder” is a great title, well served by the spicy kaleidoscopic brew it signifies and one, like this entire album, from which the listener can draw sustenance for multiple sittings.” *John Sharpe All About Jazz NY.*

“This music demands the listeners full attention” *Dan Adler Jazz Improv Magazine*

"Superseding prescribed notions of Third Stream traditions, Minasi's unconventional string quartet embraces the intricate arrangements of Western classicism, the spontaneous expressionism of jazz, and the raw folksy quality of rural blues in equal measure, yielding an intriguingly modernistic hybrid all its own." *Troy Collins- Pont of Departure*

“Fantastic virtuoso quartet!!! All members are skilled improvisers, and Minasi’s arrangements are superb.” *Swing Journal-Japan*

“Minasi’s dissonance is exquisitely manifest by an extraordinary quartet – recommended without question” *Clifford Allen-Blogspot*

“To me Dom Minasi’s CD is one of the best CD’s. of 2009. It is very interesting. I play it very often because I find that each time you listen to it you find something new”. *Luis Piazzini*

## **Blaise Siwula\* Dom Minasi 'Live At The Matt Bevel Center**

“Guitarist Dom Minasi and Blaise Siwula: 21st century artists who bring melodic poise to accessibly free improvisation..”  
*Doug Simpson Audiophile*

“These musicians puzzle their parts together as neatly as the four hands of a piano duet.”  
*Gordon Marshall AAJ*

“Excellent stuff and very much recommended.”

*Clifford Allen Ni Kantu*

“Great record”. *Paris Transatlantic Jason Bivins*

"Siwula's duo with guitarist and composer Dom Minasi, is an electrifying experience.... "All About Jazz  
NY Wilbur Mckenzie

## **The Bird The Girl and The Donkey**

“...With *The Bird, The Girl And The Donkey*, Minasi present a democratically stable form of extreme improvisation that confounds, challenges and connects in all the right ways.”

*Dan Bilawsky - All About Jazz*

“Minasi's larger ensemble makes compelling collective music with each individual voice distinct and integral. ... worth a good deep listen. ”*Free Jazz.com*

“It's a wonderfully creative collection of pieces: intense, but never aggressive; complex, but still accessible; this is a great advertisement for improvised music.” *Bruce Lindsay All About Jazz*

“This CD ( *The Bird The Girl and The Donkey*) is a first-class essay in the art of improvisation that could only be fashioned by musicians with years of experience.”

*Ken Waxman The New York City Jazz Record*