

# Midwest Record

Entertainment  
Reviews, news, and views

**04/03/17**

## **PEPJACK**

MICHAEL MORREALE/Vol. 1 Love and Influence: A stunning double disc of original compositions by a stalwart of Staten Island jazz that has waited a long time, toiling in the vineyards, for this moment in the sun. A masterful straight ahead set, Morreale simply is jazz. Dollars to doughnuts no one west of the Hudson has heard of many or any of the cats under the trumpeter baton here, but that certainly doesn't make them chopped liver. A sumptuous audio feast, this is clearly the kind of set musos and listeners can wait a life time to have arrive fully formed. Killer stuff.

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**MICHAEL MORREALE** [tpt/flg/p] has produced a rather ambitious 2 CD set as his debut as leader. LOVE AND INFLUENCE [Pepjack Records pjr-001] brings together recordings from 2/16,17,18 & 3/9 2016 plus some material in concert from 11/2/13. This may sound like a disparate set of recordings but it rograms very well. I listened to it several times straight through, as well as in sections, and it is smooth and well integrated. There is some fine work from Jon Gordon [as] as well as John Allred [tbn] and some nice compositions, 17 all Morreale originals [121:13]. There is really no strong reason not to enjoy the program other than it is a bit generic and reminds me of those extended Prestige dates. The weakest area is when Morreale goes into a late Miles posture. Instead of a 2 CD set it might have been better to have issued only the best of what is here—this could have been condensed into one terrific CD issue.

**Robert D Rusch** (*founder of Cadence Magazine*)

**July 2017**

**Michael Morreale: Love and Influence** (2013-16 [2017], **Blujazz**, 2CD): Trumpet player, also some flugelhorn and piano, based in New York. I don't know of any previous albums, but hype sheet says he's been active thirty-some years, and I've seen a number of side credits, especially with Joe Jackson. Mainstream, with Jon Gordon on alto sax, lots of piano. First disc is brighter and sharper; second includes a vocal. B+ (\*) [cd]

Tom Hull  
On The Web



**91.1 FM C'VILLE**  
**102.9 FM RICHMOND**

Michael Morreale – Love And Influence (Pepjack): Educator/composer/trumpet player  
Michael Morreale has served as a Professor of Music (Jazz emphasis) at the College of Staten Island since 1995 and a jazz trumpeter for most of his life. He recorded with Joe Jackson on the latter's "Body and Soul" (1984) and "Blaze of Glory" (1989). This recording is a retrospective of the work of his longterm band. Formed in 1983 as The Staten Island Chamber Music Players Jazz Quartet, the group eventually grew to a septet. The music included on this set stretches from 2002 to 2016. The main group features Morreale (trumpet, flugelhorn, piano), Jon Gordon (alt, soprano sax), John Alfred (trombone), Tony Rogusis (piano, Fender Rhodes), Bill Moring (bass) and Tim Horner (drums). There is some fine music on this set. The group swings and has great command as a mainstream jazz ensemble.

Dave Rogers