

SmoothJazz.com Review: *Balance Act*

Dr. Steve Raybine is a vibraphonist, percussionist, composer/arranger, instructor, conductor, and clinician. And we're not done...He received his degrees from the prestigious Eastman's School of Music, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Iowa. But wait; there's more..Raybine taught jazz and percussion at universities for over ten years. Fusion fans may recall Steve Raybine from the critically-acclaimed Jazz Ensemble *Auracle*, which also featured trumpeter Rick Braun. While we're certainly impressed with this artist's accomplishments, the one thing that we find to be most impressive is Steve's ability to transform his musical prowess and his cool electro-acoustic instrumental hybrid concoctions into effortless and highly enjoyable melodies, as is evidenced by his latest solo recording, *Balance Act*. Once this CD starts spinning on the player, you start to feel like you're on an island, sitting at a cabana bar, wearing a Panama hat and slowly sipping a Mojito. Hence, we play the CD a lot in this office. Smoothjazz.com really enjoys *San Diego Surf*, *Tree of Life*, *Taliesin* & *I Told You So*.