

## **Derrick Gardner Still I Rise Critic Summary**

Performer, composer and veteran of the Count Basie Orchestra and Harry Connick Jr. Big Bands, Derrick Gardner has worked with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, George Benson, Frank Forster and Tony Bennet to name only a few. Recently, Derrick put together his 18-piece **Big dig! Band** for the recording of **Still I Rise** (Impact Jazz) – a powerful, explosive album released in July, 2020 that spent over thirty weeks on the *JazzWeek* Top 50 chart.

“The blues, post-bop and swing will blow your mind. Period. It doesn’t let up.” - **Mike Greenblatt on *Still I Rise*, *Goldmine Magazine***

“***Still I Rise*** is a sleek, powerful, gorgeous project, and under all the brilliance is a driving energy which is both musical and political. Buckle up—this ride is real!” — **Charlene Diehl Associate editor, *dig! Magazine***

“This is about the third album I’ve heard by trumpeter Derrick Gardner, and like the others, it just makes me want to see him bring a tour to LA.” – **George W. Harris on *Still I Rise*, *JazzWeekly***

"Soulful and Intelligent, a tremendous talent with a vivid and unusual imagination." - ***The Herald Times, Bloomington***

“Gardner proves himself to be a visionary composer.” - **Peter Vacher, *JazzWise Magazine*, November 2020**