



victor noriega :: press

"What Noriega brings to jazz piano is the sensitivity of Bill Evans, the propulsion of Horace Silver, and the experimentation of Thelonious Monk. He is not a hot or a cold player, but one who can capture the somber mood of a rainy day, or the sense of adventure of a maiden voyage."

- Charles Mudede / The Stranger (Seattle)

"Victor is an intensely creative player, always pushing toward the outer limits of the music but never lacking emotional depth."

- JQ Whitcomb / shanghaijazzscene.com (Shanghai, China)

"Victor Noriega's second release 'Alay' rises way above most of today's jazz recordings with a unique concept and expert craftsmanship. By introducing Filipino songs into a jazz context, Noriega pushes the jazz envelope and follows tradition at the same time. He is clearly an artist to watch."

- Gordon Todd / KBCS (Seattle)

"Noriega is a pianist less sequential and less right-handed than the norm. He creates alluring circular designs with an ever-present subtle pulse... His use of Filipino folk music and popular songs creates fresh, light, graceful textures for jazz."

- Thomas Conrad / Jazztimes (USA)

"His sense of time is sure and confident, and his vision never strays from a well-defined framework... Noriega is a lyrical pianist. He picks each note for its melody and extends thematic ideas without straying far from the core... His notes are spare and open, and the rhythm section is emphatic... a compelling performance that rises to a resounding climax..."

- Jerry D'Souza / AllAboutJazz (USA)

"[Alay] is indeed an innovative recording, at times complex and containing many moods and rhythms... the playing is excellent with the trio dovetailing perfectly at the varying tempos... After several listenings the melodies and harmonies fall into place and the high quality of musicianship from the trio becomes apparent. There is no substitute for class, a great recording."

- John Reid / Keith Community Radio (Keith Banffshire, Scotland)

"Noriega is an original pianist who presents his classic jazz roots mixed with music of his origins. Excellent and intriguing at the same time."

- Vasja Ivanovski / Radio 2 (Skopje, Macedonia)

"Imaginative ideas flow like water... Noriega is a bit like a young Dave Brubeck. His music has a friendly, good-natured feel, no matter where he takes it, and his approach to crossing cultural boundaries is fresh."

- Paul DeBarros / Seattle Times (USA)

"A skilled improviser as well as a keen composer, Seattle pianist Noriega knows his history; you can divine subtle elements of everyone from Bill Evans to Bud Powell to Thelonius Monk in his playing. But what really shines through is a deep, thoughtful love for his discipline. Noriega is that rare musician who reminds the listener that in the right hands, sophisticated art and popular music are not mutually exclusive."

- The Stranger (Seattle)

"Noriega is a gifted composer who seems to approach the music from a classically-trained perspective. His tunes are layered, complex, interesting and rhythmic. The songs are not formulaic or pre-determined. Noriega has so much up his sleeve, the end result is a richness that is exciting to hear... this is very original song-writing that leaves a listener feeling that he or she has gone on an uncharted musical journey."

- Todd Mathews / Earshot Jazz (Seattle)

"Stone's Throw is an impressive debut recording from a pianist and composer of considerable talent. Noriega's tunes crackle with individuality, making it clear that his ambitions reside in innovation not imitation. Introspective at times, energetic and boundary-stretching at others, these tunes seamlessly blend jazz and modern classical influences, expertly rendered by Noriega and his trio."

- Gordon Todd / KBCS (Seattle)