



## CARMINE D'AMICO - ARTIST COMMENT SHEET

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This document is now a part of Carmine's extended press kit. His formal press kit primarily contains the articles and press clippings from traditional media sources. The formal press package is mailed to appropriate clients and contractors. However, with the advent of the Internet and Online Music, it became necessary to include the online media aspect of the press as well...

The following represent documented impressions that Carmine's music has given a variety of listeners who have heard his music online since he has made the music available at [www.CarmineDAmico.com](http://www.CarmineDAmico.com) and various other music-related websites.

**Please note:** These comments are primarily from Online Music Review Websites, Online Listeners and there are a couple of comments from friends at the end. This is only a sampling of these types of comments and it would be impractical and unrealistic to add each and every review of this type to Carmine's website. If you would like to comment on Carmine's music that you have heard online, please do so on his message boards and in his Carmine's Jazz Corner forum. Thanks! Webmaster.

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**ONLINE PRESS COMMENTS:** Experience the jazz of Carmine D'Amico with his CD release of "The Carmine D'Amico Ensemble". Carmine captures the moods of Latin jazz, smooth jazz, jazz-fusion and rhythm & blues. The velvet melodies of 'Angel 01' and 'Twilight' take center stage. If you seek the perfected vibration of strings, visit the sounds rendered by the guitar of Carmine D'Amico - Courtesy eSoundz Reporter  
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**ONLINE REVIEW COMMENTS - Uncle Tim's Review:** When I first loaded these mp3 files, I thought I was going to hear a few nice songs. I thought Carmine was going to tease us with a little taste of what he can do. Instead I got a full CD's worth of finely crafted music and well polished songs.

This collection of songs covers the full gamut with hard-hitting guitar lines like the ones in "Does It Ever Rain In Heaven" and "Angel", to soft dreamy melodic streams of music like the melody lines in "You Speak To Me In My Dreams". I find myself listening to Carmine's melody lines almost like I was going on a trip with him.

Carmine usually starts his songs with a mild musical progression and then puts down a lead solo or secondary part which quickly sets the direction of the song. Often his guitar solos start with quick, sweet melodic statements and play off each other. No wasted notes here.

His songs have a strong direction and often combine Jazz and Rock sounds. Once the direction is set, you take a small journey as Carmine communicates emotional statements through his tasteful playing. Carmine knows what he wants to say, and he gets right down to business. Pleasant arrangements of instruments set up very tasteful melodic outbursts. I love it when a guitarist can make you feel like his guitar is talking. Not only does Carmine's guitar talk, it creates down right interesting conversation.

Like Angel, the first cut on "The Carmine D'Amico Ensemble", the songs usually build to a crescendo of tasteful interaction of several instruments and carefully controlled melodic



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statements. The solo on Angel climbs and slowly releases pent up emotion and conveys the meaning of the song right through the solo. I thought studio guitarists were suppose to be cold and without emotion. Apparently no one told Carmine.

Carmine' s background as a New York City studio musician is quite apparent as he solos. Each one is carefully crafted to inject just the right amount of emotion or direction. There is no over playing and the instruments never seem to step on each other, yet each cut has a full sound.

He has blended several different guitars together but also horns, piano and harmonica as he does in "Midnight Romance" and "Life Is To Short"....

This is not just a nice collection of songs available in mp3 format. I have managed to listen to it on my computer in my studio, but now I find I want to take it with me in the car. This CD deserves a home close to the CD player where I can easily find it.

You can hear this song for yourself, just click on the guitar.com link and download it. This is an mp3 file. Hear the song Angel for yourself right here.

Angel is on The Carmine D' Amico Ensemble. Nice work Carmine!

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### **GODS OF MUSIC REVIEW - "Does It Ever Rain In Heaven?"**

Allow me to begin. This piece, Does It Ever Rain In Heaven?, has to have the most backing I have witnessed in a while. This support is in the form of Carmine D' Amico. This remarkable man is a guitarist who is skilled in his trade, and one who seamlessly blends styles of jazz, rock, and funk into his work. He has received much adulation for his talent, nurtured by years of experience. Not only that, he is also a 16-time Grammy Award Winner.

Wait, reverse just a little bit. 16 Grammys! That' s simply crazy! But this piece shows that the rewards are well-deserved. This song is a smooth jazz/rock mix that is quite brilliant in all its aspects: performance, composition, and sound quality. The Carmine D' Amico Ensemble (consisting of Carmine D' Amico on guitar, Boris Kozlow on bass, Matt Miller on drums, Ronee D' Amico with vocals, and Sali Oguri and Fred Kimmel as cœcomposers) can really put something together and play it just as well, and this song serves as evidence of that.

The piece is centered on Carmine' s solid guitar licks as he goes from playing a smooth jazz melody before shifting into more of a rock tune. Even with this change, the entire piece is rock-steady while laying down a serious groove. The drums, bass, and keys also play an excellent part in the song. They never take a lead, but they back up the guitar excellently while giving this piece a super-solid mid-tempo beat.

The first half of this song is simply a marvel. Carmine displays his mastery of the guitar with one of the best smooth jazz tunes you' ll ever hear. Coupled with professional sound quality, Mr. D' Amico delivers some lush, sustained, and succulent jazz chords straight to your ears. With silky smooth jazz chords floating along with a nice beat, this part is nearly pristine.

After a brief break in the piece, Carmine dons his guitar with a rock persona, playing a more driven type of melody. Through this, an undisturbed transition is formed, mixing rock and jazz without stealing continuity. I'll admit, I detest rock, but I used to listen to it a great deal, so I know

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what sounds good or bad. From what I hear, this tune Carmine delivers is excellent. The melody is more progressive, and well played. The sound is also well balanced as to not disturb the flow of the piece. Anyone who listens to this song can easily see how Carmine D' Amico picked up 16 Grammys.

Overall, this is a great tune. This piece is more mainstream than what I usually listen to, but it is still brilliant. That means most of you people out there will like it even more. I implore you to give this piece a listen and behold the beauty of such a wonderful jazz/rock fusion. Hunter H. (Gods Of Music)

### GODS OF MUSIC REVIEW - "Angel"

The man commands his instrument, and lets the music command...the structure and mood. I am telling you, right now, that it is, VERY...Hard, not to fall, in love, with this cut. I love this song and you must!

For a seasoned professional, signed to capitol records at age 9, ' Angel' is a hit! Period. This man's career looks like a ' wet dream' for any recording artist. It is my, well pronounced, pleasure...to review him. MR. D' Amico and his ensemble are such a cut, that they sit down to create and passively force the listener to become more than a listener, and believe me, if you do not fall in love with this man's playing you are a fool.

The guitar licks are a string of diamonds, set against a mother-of-pearl, background...somewhere in Harlem. Ha! A limo, in Harlem! Angel is a bluesy-classical-jazz-fusion. Its bite will leave a mark on your earlobe, for REAL.

At first, the song starts with Carmine rendering a beautiful classical piece(something in the vein of BACH, perhaps, ' Air on G' or ' Jesu' ), on his ' baby' ...(I forget the name of the luthier, which, is an error, I will correct.) guitar.

Trained by his father (a famous jazzman as well), and buddies with Chris Burnett (coincidentally, another favorite ' Kickin' , saxophonist, jazz man of mine.) Did I mention, that he's won 11 Grammys? NOPE! Sorry, my faux pas. World renowned, studio guitarist, Carmine D' Amico and his ensemble...deserve SOOO much more. The man is a legend, beyond his own time...he teaches, has a son, whom is also signed to London Sire (the band is 40belowsummer); he comes from a greatness, and a poverty...that is ' American' .

His flavor will enthrall, even, the harshest (yup that's a word) of critics...Other must listens are: ' Does it Ever Rain in heaven?' , and ' You Speak to me in my dreams' . Point taken, this review sounds... ' kissass' for lack of a better cliché; however, I can assure you, that, a bottle of cognac and a good woman...(or man, not to define preference) and a little Carmine D' Amico's Ensemble...make for a terrific evening.

Listen to this or I will tell your father, what you did with his car last Saturday night...those scratches ' weren't always there' . I will be doing an article on this Man and his ' Life's work' , which has blown me away...! Jeremy Robertsen (Gods of Music)

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Impressive, quite impressive.

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Firstly I would like to say how unique and interesting it is to have a web site as this one. I have never heard of a Melancon guitar. I am a professional gigging musician, singer, and bandleader. Several weeks ago i showed up to a gig and sitting next to me was Carmine D'Amico and he had this gorgeous ax that I have never seen before. I am going to give you my thoughts on my first impression of Melancon, but first I want to talk about Carmine. This is a guy that one hears about, but never gets the privilege to play with. He just blew me away. I mean Carmine has got a different chord change for every note in a tune. The bandleader would throw some difficult charts in front of Carmine and he played the stuff like he' s been playing it for 20 years. Man, what a player! And on top of it all, he has no ego, no attitude; he made me feel like an equal. Let me just say that if a guitar player on the level of Carmine D'Amico plays the Melancon, I would get one sight unseen, and now that I have seen the Melancon, I am even more impressed. Meir Sherman

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Just listened to "Sacrifice". Such soaring guitar and amazing killer bass, drums and keys. Top notch all around. I found myself humming the songs over and over ... "You are so beautiful", a wonderful treatment of a great old Joe Cocker tune. GREAT! Production ALL around is top notch. You Speak To Me In My Dreams: super melodic silky guitar work, you made your parents proud Carmine! They heard it I assure you! "Hold Me For Awhile" at first could be misconstrued as ' typical' CD101.9 stuff, but the originality that jumps out by Carmine' s guitar work makes it work SO WELL. Great job! Joel Pirard

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### **SAME LISTENER COMMENTS ON TRACKS:**

#### ANGEL REMIX

CD CARMINE D' AMICO ENSEMBLE

COMPOSED BY S.DACHS ARRANGED BY CARMINE D' AMICO, JOE D' AMICO/DRUMS/P.SEPTIMUS/KEYS/BORIS KOZLOW/BASS

First off, the guitar is silky smooth, production is great, the melody is soaring, especially when the ' heavier' guitar kicks in about half way through, balls out playing there!

The whole band cooks.

#### DOES IT EVER RAIN IN HEAVEN REMIX

CARMINE/RONEE D' AMICO/SALI OGURI/FRED KIMMEL/COMPOSERS

This is like the stuff you hear on CD101.9 in NYC, smooth jazz, but no the slick, over-produced stuff that gets homogenized like so much pap. This stuff is REALLY ' cool' . I love the guitar. Carmine really has something.

#### TWILIGHT

D' AMICO/OGURI/KIMMEL

This one is a laid back number that has the guitar and piano really feeding off each other. I should mention that the rhythm section on ALL these tracks is top notch, serving to accent the crispness of the arrangements. Again, when the guitar kicks in with a more ' rocklike' sound it is awesome. My only complaint on this track is that the backing keyboard has a wash-like pad going on that sometimes gets in the way.

#### YOU SPEAK TO ME IN MY DREAMS

D' AMICO/COMPOSER/GUITARIST

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A truly beautiful, soulfully executed solo jazz piece written for his parents. A wonderful tribute. Played on a HERITAGE GOLDEN EAGLE. EXCELLENT!

### MIDNIGHT ROMANCE

SCAT VOCALS BY RONEE D' AMICO, CLASSICAL GUITAR SOLOS BY CARMINE D' AMICO, BORIS KOZLOW/BASS MICHAEL HINTON/PERCUSSION, AND DRUMS/VLADIMIRE GRIENBERG/TROMBONE/COMPOSER

This has a Bossa nova beat that is infectious, a cool scat vocal, and lush production. Carmine is a 16 Grammy award winner! It shows, frankly, and he obviously has a LONG career ahead of him. Every track grows on you instantly.

### OBSESSION

COMPOSED/PRODUCED/ARRANGED BY STUDIO/JAZZ/FUNK GUITARIST CARMINE D' AMICO

Carmine uses his guitars in a variety of interactive ways that weave in and out of the arrangement in a pattern of quick, stabs of notes, laden with pure sweet, understated taste. Seriously well done.

### MY EMOTION

COMPOSED/ARRANGED/PRODUCED/ PERFORMED by CARMINE D' AMICO FLUTE/THE LATE RON FINCK

There is a wonderful pan-flute on this track, set against a Latin beat, some great piano, and Carmine playing acoustically here. A trade-off of sections complimenting each other, the track really has style in abundance. Again, the melodies are strong, and the production throughout is superb. If it sounds this good on my computer speakers, I can only imagine how good it would be on a real system. By Joel Pirard

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Impressive, quite impressive.

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** ...Quiet beautiful songs to raging emotional solos, Carmine' s new release, "The Carmine D' Amico Ensemble" has it all.

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Thanks for the advice on the practicing. "You speak to me in my dreams" is beautiful. I can almost feel the wonderful relationship you had with your parents through the song. It is very "Wes" sounding just without the strings in the background. What kind of amp did you use for the recording? Was it all in one take? Thanks, Mark.

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Words are insufficient to describe the music of ace studio guitarist/jazz virtuoso Carmine D' Amico and his band " The Ensemble". The only way to truly comprehend the quality of their music is auditory. The positive sonorous tapestry of sound is intense. One experiences it through the heart, mind and soul in ways difficult to describe. The musical genre of "The Ensemble" is loosely classified as Jazz. Yet the musicianship traverses that barrier effortlessly. One can hear Carmine play phrases of Blues, Jazz, Rock, Fusion, Funk, Gospel & other various musical styles, with in a given song. However, they are played tastefully and precisely creating a musical mosaic masterpiece. Joshua Turner Studio Guitarist

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** I listened to "You Speak To Me In My Dreams". I tell you I was in a trance! Simply divine! Sheila Hayes

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Got your CD on Saturday, have been listening to it over and over. If it were a vinyl, it would be worn out by now; I keep hearing more subtlety, more nuances. Good stuff. Hartley Singer Studio Guitarist

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**LISTENER COMMENT:** Thank you for the info and links. I've listened to your tracks and love twilight, A waltz for Debby and Hold me for a while. Really beautiful. You have a very impressive resume'. With your style of music and Sony's voice it's too bad a collaboration is not currently in the works. I have forwarded your website address to her. Thank you, Jo Olivieri, Sony Holland Fan Club Group

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**FRIEND COMMENT:** Hi! I am a jazz pianist and have had the privilege of recording with Carmine. Not only is he a prolific, Grammy winning guitarist, but also a great guy.... If you haven't heard any of the tunes slated for his new CD you should check out "You Are So Beautiful". Carmine has taken the great Joe Cocker tune and made it his own. Pat Curley (3' s A Crowd)

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**FRIEND COMMENT:** Multi-Grammy winner and veteran recording artist, Carmine D' Amico shows that music is truly a life-long journey of exploration and development. The recordings available here demonstrate a genuine "hip ness to da' hop" along with a welcomed musical sophistication. His music presents a unique fusion of most elements found in contemporary jazz today. Mr. D' Amico is a gifted player whose ideas obviously flow naturally as he plays. He is equally comfortable playing with the hollow body sound of such greats as Wes Montgomery and George Benson; to letting it loose in fiery traditions of technical wizards like Al DeMiola and Pat Metheny. If you are looking for contemporary jazz with some teeth, check out the CARMINE D' AMICO ENSEMBLE. Chris Burnett (Kansas City USA)

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