

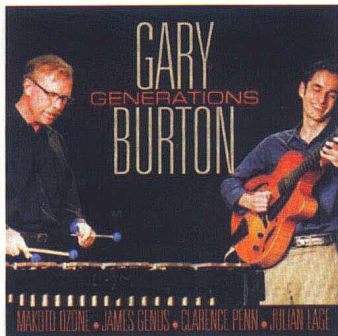
Gary Burton

Generations

CONCORD 2217

★★★½

In his 43 years as a bandleader, vibraphonist Gary Burton has jumpstarted the careers of some of the most respected six-stringers in the business, including Pat Metheny and John Scofield. With *Generations*, Burton taps 16-year-old



guitarist Julian Lage as his featured sideman. Bringing his talent to bear on such cuts as Oscar Peterson's "Wheatland" and the subdued Metheny composition "Take Another Look," Lage reveals a mature level of understanding that far outpaces his physical age. Contributing a trio of his own originals, including the gently loping opener "First Impression," Lage also shows that there is much more than a wild-eyed wunderkind with

an axe in hand at work here.

What never materializes on *Generations* however is the sort of precocious one-upmanship that's expected from a prodigious talent like Lage. Though inventive throughout and more than capable of holding his own in the strong company of Burton, pianist Makoto Ozone, bassist James Genus and drummer Clarence Penn, Lage never reaches too far from his staid center. Although Burton never truly pushes him to break out, he does manage to match his protégé's serious demeanor mood for mood and lick for lick, revealing Burton's gift for patient tutelage. —John Kreicbergs

Generations: First Impression; Early; Gorgeous; Wheatland; Take Another Look; Syndrome; Test Of Time; The Title Will Follow; Ladies In Mercedes; Heroes Sin Nombre. (65:26)
Personnel: Gary Burton, vibraphone; Julian Lage, guitar; Makoto Ozone, piano; James Genus, bass; Clarence Penn, drums.

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