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## **Saxophonist Michael J. Thomas brings the beat of the city with his new CD release by Eunice Moseley**

Even though he was raised around country music – growing up in Kentucky – and heard R&B music from his parents that consisted of Stevie Wonder and Earth, Wind and Fire, Michael J. Thomas was drawn towards the saxophone and Jazz. On March 2, 2010 Thomas releases a new CD project, “City Beat,” on Harbor Breeze Music.

“I’m from the country originally...and any opportunity to go to the city I took, “ laughs Michael about the title of the project. “It’s something about the city that I love...the hustle and bustle...I like it.”

His love for the sounds of the city is evident in his new CD project because honestly while listening to it that is exactly what I see in my mind, the comings-and-going of city life.

“You can go to a restaurant in New York at 2 a.m.,” Thomas points out. “The town I live in everything shuts down at 9 p.m.”

Michael said music was all that he ever wanted to do and though his music is classified as Jazz he has been influence by Michael Jackson, Prince and Brian McKnight.

“My last album was a Gospel album,” Michael J. informed me.

Michael, who has a large following in Japan, is backed by some awesome musicians that consist of Eric Lampley on bass; Jonathan Davis on drums; Diki Ross on keyboard; Shannon Wallace on electric guitar, and Paul Scurto

on electric guitar/trumpet.

I have so many favorites on this CD. I will try to list a few cuts that stand out which includes “Pretty Skin” for its Smooth Jazz feel, “Mind Your Step” which has a bit of a funky flavor to it with a layer of Smooth Jazz; “Cali Trippin” where everyone gets a little crazy – Diki on piano, Paul on Trumpet, Shannon on guitar and of course Michael on sax; “Midtown Manhattan” gave me a night club feel; the title track “City Beat” for being a bit sassy, and the Michael Jackson cover “Billie Jean” because I love the “intro” before the cover and I love the way he has his sax singing the “Billie Jean” lyrics.

For more information on Michael J. Thomas and his “City Beat” project log onto [www.MichaelJThomas.net](http://www.MichaelJThomas.net), [www.myspace.com/michaeljthomas](http://www.myspace.com/michaeljthomas) and [www.facebook.com/smoothmichaeljthomas](http://www.facebook.com/smoothmichaeljthomas).