

## Dave Holland Quintet - Prime Directive (1999)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)

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1 *Prime Directive* 7:42 2 *Looking Up* 13:33 3 *Make Believe* 6:26 4 *A Seeking Spirit* 11:21 5 *High Wire* 6:47 6 *Jugglers Parade* 8:15 7 *Candlelight Vigil* 4:51 8 *Wonders Never Cease* 13:53 9 *Down Time* 3:52  
Double Bass – Dave Holland Drums – Billy Kilson  
Soprano Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone – Chris Potter Trombone, Cowbell – Robin Eubanks Vibraphone, Marimba – Steve Nelson

You may have to wait a while between Dave Holland-led releases, but it's always worth it. Tremendous taste prevents Holland from making unsatisfying music. He is a great leader in the truest senses of the word -- he gives his team space, trusts their abilities and judgment, yet all the while remains firmly in command and infuses the results with his own style and personality. *Prime Directive* is a wonderful jazz album. These 77 minutes and nine tracks do not cheat or disappoint. The straight-ahead tunes -- composed by double-bassist Holland and his talented band mates (one each) -- all bear Holland's distinctive rhythmic patterns and harmonics. A fine example is the title track, on which Robin Eubanks on trombone and Chris Potter on saxophones hold a stimulating musical conversation over the rhythm section's driving groove. For listeners who prefer a more deliberate pace, there's the searching, contemplative "Make Believe," with Steve Nelson's lovely vibraphone work appointing the mood. On the hopeful, "A Seeking Spirit," fans will be tapping along to the rhythmic feast offered up by the leader and his pace-setting partner Billy Kilson on drums. The melancholy "Candlelight Vigil" presents Holland at his bowed best. Finally, "Wonders Never Cease" finds the entire band at the height of their collective, improvisational prowess. *Prime Directive* is recommended; a great leader is, indeed, hard to find. ---Brian Bartolini, AllMusic Review

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