

The Jeff Lorber Fusion - Water Sign (1979)

Written by bluesever

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A1 Toad's Place 5:35 A2 Country 5:41 A3 Tune 88 4:28 A4 Sparkle 4:26 B1 Water Sign 5:21 B2 Rain Dance 4:40 B3 Right Here (Soloist, Guitar – Jay Koder) 5:23 B4 Lights Out 6:41 Drums – Dennis Bradford Electric Bass – Danny Wilson Electric Piano [Fender Rhodes, Yamaha Electric Grand] – Jeff Lorber Flugelhorn – Freddie Hubbard Flute – Joe Farrell Guitar [Funky] – Doug Lewis Guitar [Jazz], Acoustic Guitar – Jay Koder Percussion – Bruce Smith Producer – Jeff Lorber Synthesizer [Prophet, Oberheim 4 Voice, Arp 2600, Mini-moog] – Jeff Lorber Tenor Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone – Dennis Springer

By the mid-'80s, Jeff Lorber placed improvisation on the back burner and took a highly commercial, radio-oriented approach that offered little evidence of his skills as a soloist. But early in his career, the electric keyboardist specialized in very accessible yet free-spirited and creative jazz/funk/R&B stressing improvisation and spontaneity. *Water Sign*, one of Lorber's strongest dates, unites his working group of 1979 (which includes Danny Wilson on electric bass and Dennis Bradford on drums) with high-quality soloists like Freddie Hubbard (flügelhorn), Joe Farrell (flute), and Dennis Springer (tenor and soprano sax). Whether digging into the gritty jazz/funk grooves of "Tune 88," "Toad's Place," and "Right Here" or a piece as charming as "Sparkle," the players don't hesitate to stretch out and say what needs to be said. --- Alex Henderson, AllMusic Review

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