

# CD Scene: Terrence Brewer

## Double Trouble: T Brews Two

Reviewed by Natasha Miller

Terrence Brewer has released not one, but two solid albums on his own Strong Brew Music label. The titles, *The Calling: Volume One* and *The Calling: Volume Two*, had me wondering, "Why two at the same time?" I'm still wondering that, quite honestly, but it doesn't matter much, because the material on both offerings are so tight, I can forget the complexity of a dual disc release. Some 17 songs in total, all compositions were written and arranged by Brewer and interpreted by top-notch musicians (*One*: Ben Stolorow/piano, Ravi Abcarian/acoustic bass, Micah McCain/drums; *Two*: Eric Drake/tenor sax, Wil Blades/Hammond B-3 organ, Derrek Phillips/drums).

Recorded at DKS Productions by Don Turney, the sessions sound live, which is such a true form for enjoying this kind of music. You can actually imagine being a few feet away from the musicians at a small listening room. The ring of the low bass notes and double-stops, the groovin' comping of the piano support Brewer's smooth jazz guitar melody riding clean at the front of the mix.

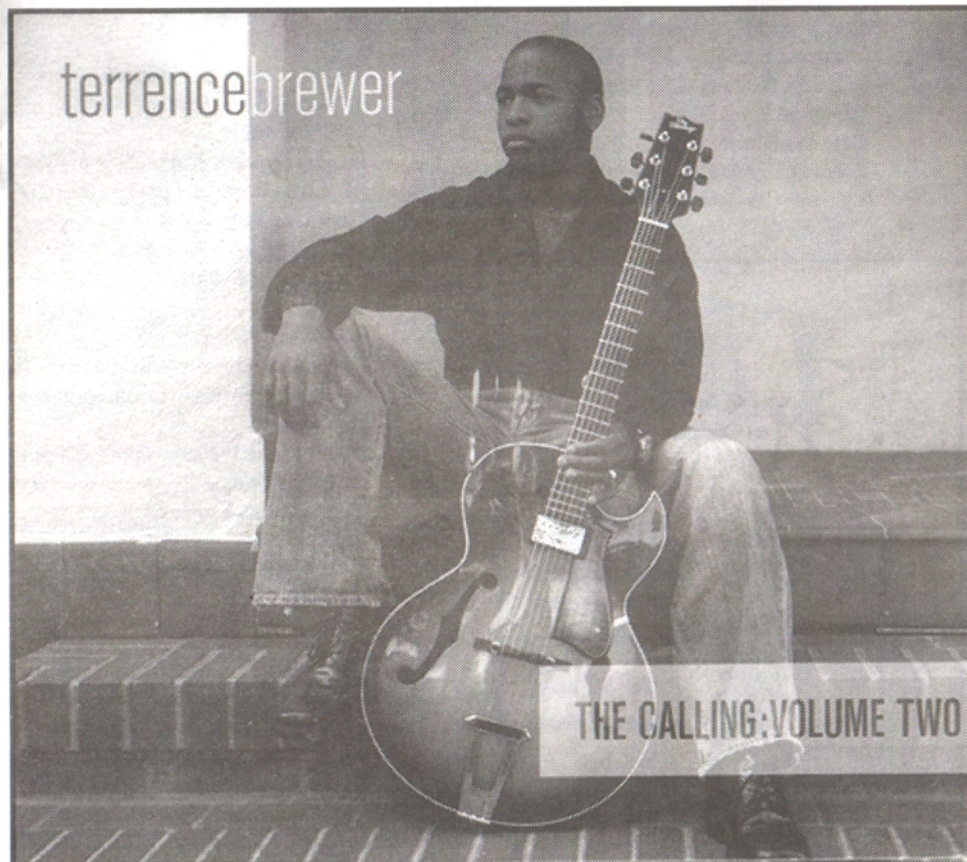
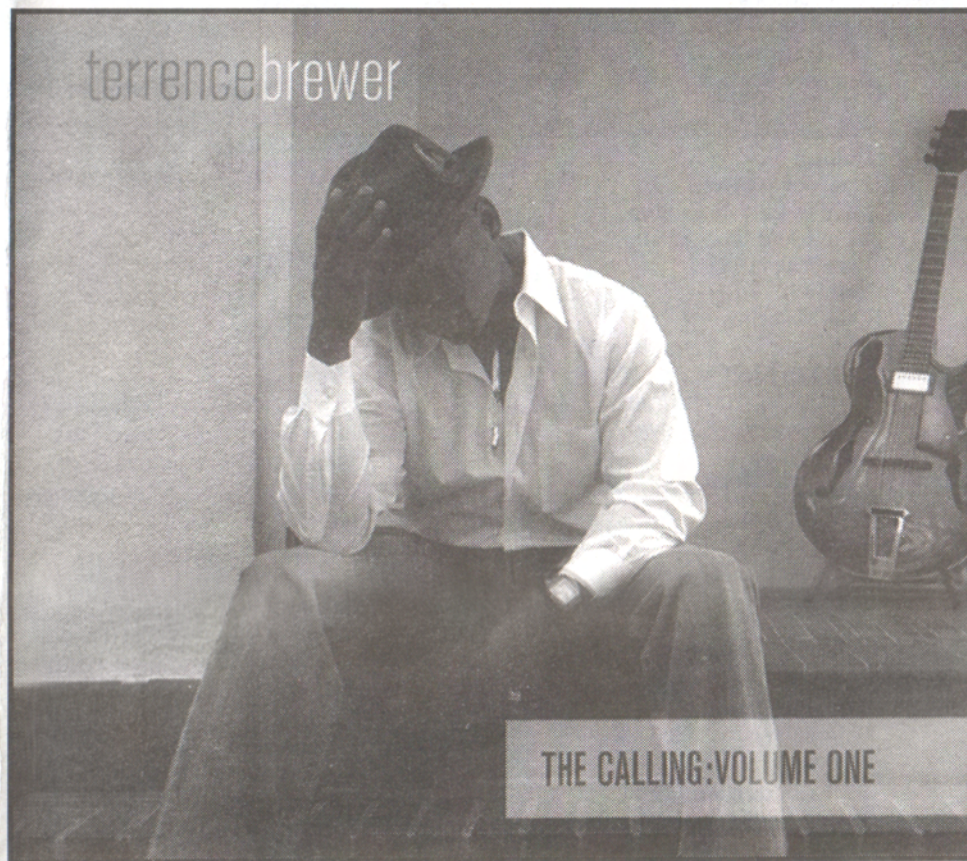
Most of the tunes on *One* lean toward the slower to mid-tempo, but that doesn't make them "sleepy." It's sometimes seductive, sometimes ultra chill. "Murray's Law" starts out with a hip unison groove that introduces a trance-like tune that revisits the intro throughout the song. "Just Like Old Times" took on too much of the same-sounding intro and theme as the before-mentioned tune, but introduced a Latin feel mid-song. "Cat Nap" is a sweet, lazy-summer-afternoon type composition that Brewer wrote for his wife Cathy. The album concludes with a more up-tempo "Vari-8-Shun" which looks at first to be a hip-hop cut, but follows closely to the traditional jazz genre.

*Two* is a Hammond B-3 organ-centered recording. With the absence of the upright acoustic bass, organist Wil Blades (John Lee Hooker, Eddie Marshall) either kicks bass on pedal, or with his left hand.

The CD is wonderful for a laid-back night of Champagne, brie and strawberries in front of a nice warm fire. "Chrystal Clarity" features guest sax player Eric Drake and adds nice and needed texture to the collection of songs. "Sunrise Sunset" is not the *Fiddler on the Roof* version; it's a mid-tempo original that Brewer flies on.

The two volumes are a perfect addition to a jazz lover's collection, and any other who wants to include wonderful original compositions from a talented musician, songwriter and arranger in their life. 🎵

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