

Artist: Thomas Gunther
Single: "Swing Fever"
Review by: Heath Andrews

Thomas Gunther has over 25 years of experience as a writer, composer, pianist and educator in the musical arts. Many of those years have been spent introducing people to the world of pop/jazz. Given his knowledge of other forms of music though, whether it be classical, theatrical, jazz fusion or straight up pop, Gunther is more than a little well versed in music in general. So if he says there hasn't been any new swing music for people to dance to, then there hasn't been.

It's from this realization that Gunther wrote his song, "Swing Fever." Though it is unquestionably a swinging tune, Gunther points out that he's utilized elements of jump blues, easily heard within the song's, "boogie-woogie" horn section. What separates Gunther's work from that of the swing revival bands of the late 1990's though, is that he manages to capture a musical feeling that is simultaneously modern and classic. The vocalists, Andrew Distel, Sarah Marie Young, and Derrick Procell, effectively channel that 1940's feel in the lead vocal delivery and especially the backing vocal arrangement.

The quick, danceable rhythm relentlessly carries the song up to and through some noteworthy solos on the guitar and saxophone. Gunther has made sure though that the solos are powerfully brief and never pull the song too far out of its infectious melody. And Gunther himself shows his chops as a pianist with dynamic playing from start to finish. The only thing that misses the mark is the lyric. Granted the lyrics are hardly the most important part of a swing song, but they are unfortunately, noticeably hokey. The repetition of the titular phrase is a little overbearing, and there's a regrettably bad forced rhyme between "feet" and "it" in the first verse.

Outside of the lyrics, everything about "Swing Fever" absolutely swings. For genre enthusiasts they'll feel right at home within the atmosphere that Thomas Gunther has created here. Even people who aren't fans of jump blues or swing should be able to feel the rhythm and enjoy the wonderful display of talent that is packed into this track. "Swing Fever" is one ailment that people should consider themselves so lucky to contract.

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Rating: 4 Stars (out of 5)