



It's only fitting that contemporary-jazz guitarist **B.D. Lenz** has titled his ninth and most recent release *Manifesto* (Jade Buddha). Indeed, the New Jersey-based guitarist seems to be reiterating his statement of purpose with an 11-song set of hard-charging, blues-heavy fusion. With aesthetic guideposts planted in the camps of Mike Stern and Pat Metheny, and nods to

Jimi Hendrix and Jeff Beck, Lenz crafts his own engaging update. Show runners have noticed, and his music has been featured on TV programs such as *Breaking Bad*, *Catfish* and Anthony Bourdain's *No Reservations*. As befitting its title, *Manifesto* also includes "Left, Right and Wrong," an aptly aggressive tune inspired by the political climate of this presidential election cycle. "Karmalectro," included here, is more celebrative. Lenz's textured leads weave in and out of a funk-rock backbeat provided by his first-rate quintet. As throughout, Geoff Mattoon delivers deeply bluesy statements on saxophone, while keyboardist Dan Paul, bassist James Rosocha and drummer Abe Fogle keep a mesmerizing groove brewing in the basement. Lenz transitions from fleet and nimble to heavy and funky, maintaining interest throughout with an intriguing sonic palette.