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Of Black Music
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From The Smooth To The Groove

By Laurence
Prangell

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

THE MOVEMENT REVISITED: A MUSICAL PORTRAIT
OF FOUR ICONS [MACK AVENUE CD]

A powerful album that celebrates four key figures of the Civil Rights Movement: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and Muhammad Ali. A blend of jazz with spoken word narration, its message is universal, inspiring and on point [in the current climate especially]. The emphatic 10:44-min-long opener *Overture/The Moment Revisited* finds each spokesperson deliver a powerful message before a hard jazz dance groove kicks in. Each track is preceded by a dialogue from the icon in question: *Sister Rosa* is a laid-back, vibes-rich slab of blues; *Brother Malcolm* is more modal; *Rumble In The Jungle* is a punchy, angular slice of funk. *Apotheosis: November 4th 2008* pays homage to the election of Barack Obama as the first black president of the USA. Never didactic nor divisive, this is an incredible album that has universality at its heart, while speaking of the struggle of African Americans through time.