

# Mp3 Gnappy - Unloaded

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Alternative jazz for thinking people . . . Smart, sharp and boogie rock roll reality braced with bop chops. Austin Chronicle 11 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Acid Jazz, JAZZ: Jazz Fusion Details: Its a familiar question by now. Why Gnappy? What does it mean? The answer is simple. It means funky. I grew up in Houston, says guitarist/producer Buck McKinney. Gnappy was slang for funky. It might mean funky weird, or funky groove, but it always meant funky. The name fits. Muddy Waters once sang the blues had a baby, and they call it rock and roll. If 70s-era groove-jazz had a baby, they might just as well call it Gnappy. Combining elements of 70s jazz-funk with 60s horn-driven pop, Gnappy sounds like the bastard son of Tower of Power and Average White Band, with a healthy dose of Wired-era Jeff Beck thrown in for good measure. Thats not to say that Gnappy is an exacting throwback. To the contrary, Gnappys sound is less tribute than homage, and its reverence for vintage funk is balanced by an appreciation for hip-hop, modern jazz and electronica. But roots run deep, and Gnappys roots run decidedly to the groove. Gnappy unveiled their contemporary approach to the funk-jazz idiom on their eponymous 2001 debut an album that landed on many critics top-ten lists, and held-down the Featured Artist page of internet-giant Napster for an unheard-of 4 weeks. The achievement clearly suggested that Gnappy could hold their own in a peer-to-peer world dominated by indie-rock, hip-hop and pop, and may be as good an argument as any for the promise of cross-over jazz. In the words of one music critic, if you heard Gnappys MP3s on Napster before its early demise like I did, you probably became hooked. (Music Revue). In 2003, Gnappy released their follow-up Is This A Machine? which, again, received near-unanimous critical acclaim and upped the ante for 21st century funk-jazz. The result 63 minutes of classic groove dig it. (Austin Chronicle). Gnappys third album, Unloaded, is perhaps their most ambitious musical statement to date a deliberate piece of work in which the compositions speak as loudly as the performances of them. From the unforgettable theme of the title track Unloaded, to the modern boogaloo Gatorade Brain, to the staccato double-horn attack of Sushi Pimp Gnappy exhibits a dizzying array of moods and styles, and yet all of the songs share a cohesive modus operandi tight arrangements, crisp performances and focused melodies. For the involved listener, this taught, turn-on-a-dime approach yields rich rewards. Guest

appearances add to the bounty, including the trumpet-work of fellow Austinite Ephraim Owens (Karl Denisons Tiny Universe, Blaze). Additional surprises include Gnappys first vocal performance (on title track Unloaded), and the hip-hop workout Bahl Hornin. Icing on the cake is Gnappys four-way musical ping-pong match Grease Dont Freeze, which nearly blows the roof off the joint. In the end, Unloaded may be the most aptly-titled album of the year. Like a veteran prize-fighter, Gnappy leaves it all in the ring. Smart, sharp and boogie rock roll reality braced with bop chops. Austin Chronicle Crisp and clean Tower of Power-influenced compositions. North Texas Daily High energy charms . . . ominous single-line hooks . . . face-slapping hip-hop. - Jazz Times All the down-and-dirty funk sensibilities of George Clinton [with] a spacy, acid-jazz edge . . . this is exciting, listener-involved music, with hooks that keep you on the tip of your toes. - Music Revue Oh mama, they may hail from Austin, Texas, but this band is pure New Orleans jazz-funk . . . creating music that is at once smoky and ebullient. - Lafayette Daily Advertiser

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