

New Issues

2) JOSH RZEPKA, INTO THE NIGHT, ALL MUSIC NO #.

INTO THE NIGHT / TWENTY-FIVE / STASIS / SALSA QUEEN / BLUES FOR C.T. / WHEN I'M WITH YOU / SARAH'S SAMBA / LIAM'S LEAVING / CON TI.
63:14.

Josh Rzepka, tpt, flgh; Andy Hunter, tbn; Steve Kortyka, as, ts; Jackie Warren, p; Peter Dominguez, b; Ron Godale, d.
6/2 & 3/2011. Oberlin, OH.

1) BOBBY BROOM, UPPER WEST SIDE STORY, ORIGIN 82617.

D's Blues* / Upper West Side Story* / After Words* / Minor Major Mishap+ / Lazy Sundays+ / Fambrosconscious* / Father+ / Call Me A Cab* / When The Falling Leaves...*
59:53.

Bobby Broom, g; Dennis Carroll, b; Kobie Watkins*, Makaya McCraven+, d. 1/17-19/11, Barrington, IL.

2) ANDY JAFFE, MANHATTAN REFLECTIONS, BIG ROUND 8922.

2) has some things in common with the Bopitude package. It is the second Jazz outing (he also has a classical disc available) from Ohio-based Josh Rzepka who could be classified as a modest Wynton Marsalis without the hype. He also fronts a sextet of three horns and rhythm and, aside from a sax part composed by Kortyka on the contrafact "Twenty-Five", wrote and arranged all the material that makes up the nine selections. The backing trio is comprised of holdovers from Rzepka's debut disc so it is no surprise that they are super tight. Pianist Warren is particularly adept on the Latin flavored items so much so her nickname is "the Salsa Queen". There is a Clark Terry influence in the leaders trumpeting at times but no discernable specific suggestion of outside influence otherwise. Next in line, is the impressive and soulful altoing of Steve Kortyka while slideman Hunter is no slouch either. An ear-catching example of contemporary Hard Bop much in the manner of (1) above.

Larry Hollis

1) marks the first time guitarist Bobby Broom has ever done a CD of only his own compositions. All of his melodies here, like the tricky blues vamp of "Major Minor Mishap" and the sleek cool of "Lazy Sundays" are attractive and provide good showcases for the dexterity and natural soul in his playing. His fat, laid back sound, with traces of George Benson, is all over the set and once in a while he'll go on a speedy, finger busting run that brings John McLaughlin to mind. The rhythm section, with Dennis Carroll on bass and either Kobie Watkins or Makaya McCraven on drums, is loose and springy matching all of Broom's twists and turns nicely. Broom is as distinctive a player as any of the big name jazz guitarists and this is a fine example of what he can do.

2) is a compilation of 80's and 90's material from various bands led by pianist Andy Jaffe. The first seven tracks, which include several now well known names, are sturdy hard bop but suffer slightly from a compressed recording sound. There are a few Latin