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Tuesday, August 14, 2012

CD Review ~ Out of this Town, Zach Bartholomew Trio

Something for Northern Florida to be proud of.

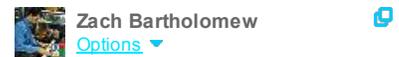


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"Fresh new spin on jazz" might be a phrase tossed around frequently, as might be "distinctive sound"; when the truth is, this guy is just revamping 70's soul-jazz nicely, that girl is riding the coattails of The Krall, and this quartet sounds like it wrote their new album in 1961, and so on.

I caught [ZBT](#) live a few months back, and knew immediately I was privy to something 'new'. I can't always put my finger on it - which, might be a good description for something new. Not to say you wont hear snatches of Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett or Brad Mehldau; but all three members of the group (particularly Bartholomew) have somehow allowed themselves to get *right to* themselves; and one knows at once upon listening that the experience is *original* and indeed, fresh.

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The album starts strongly - "Stop and Go" efficiently introduces you to each member and is a fine listen - clever on many levels; with a head that will make other musicians go 'wow', a phrase or two reminding me of the great Herbie Nichols. Striking is a confidence in playing that endures for the entire album; an easy-going assurance that your ears are in capable and caring hands. The mid-song tempo change is bold and welcome. Also clever is putting such a track in the lead-off slot where many artists go with "this is what you want me to do"; ZBT instead choosing "This is what we *can* do, check it out."



"Out of This Town" is an uptempo jazz waltz sporting a certain pleasant liberation in rhythm thanks to drummer Miles Bozeman, who also takes a dandy solo at the end. The sunny tune could easily be adapted to a throwback r&b hit. "Shades of Blue" relaxes and swings with enjoyable sprawling lines and lush solos; bassist Brandon Robertson hitting a number of nails on the head.



Zach at the recording sessions for "Out of This Town"

A full-bodied, romantic melody permeates the entire track of "Lovers Lament"; carrying it amply from rhapsodic, meterless strumming to mildly-angry driving rock and back again. The plaintive melody is there even when it's not - making it comparable to the many fine, early RTF compositions.

One could go on. These boys play *very* well together, and that undefinable *something* really comes through in both "New Beginnings" and "Road Trip". The former is a jaunty & delightful romp in 5 with prime soloing by Bartholomew and all

three enjoying the proceedings; while extended form, a smattering of Monk-like harmonies and modern funk feel make "Road Trip" a most enjoyable ride.

No filler, excellent compositions and even a smart rendering of Coltrane bolster the album. A small distraction is the slightly dull mastering job, hardly noticeable once you're tuned in to all that's going on: both the

- Dot Wilder - vocalist
- Doug Bickel - piano
- Ed Calle - saxophone
- Eddie Marshall - saxophone
- Eddie Metz, Jr. - drums
- Erly Thornton - saxophone (smooth jazz)
- Ermesc Gonzalez - guitar
- Errol Rackipov - vibraphone, marimba
- Frank Capek - bass, composer, arranger
- Frank Vardaros - trumpet, bandleader
- Gary Burton - vibraphone
- Gary Wofsey - trumpets
- Geoff Weeks - piano, vocals
- George Grosman - guitar, vocals
- Greg Little - trumpet (myspace)
- Gumbi Ortiz - percussion
- Hal Schaefer - piano
- Howard Herman - piano
- Ira Sullivan - multi-instrumentalist
- Jack Wilkins - saxophone
- James Hogan - electric guitar
- Jamie Ousley - bass
- Jazz Piersonified - piano & vocal jazz
- Jeff Berlin - electric bass
- Jeff Carswell - bass
- Jeremy Powell - saxophone
- Jill Allen Wofsey - flute, 6-string bass
- Joe Collado - percussionist
- John Ricci - saxophone
- John Schaffer - guitar
- Jose Negroni - piano
- Jose Valentino - Flute, Guitar, Bass, Sax
- Karl Weismantel - guitar
- Kathy Lyon - vocalist
- Kenny Clarke - Hammond B3
- **Kenny MacKenzie** - piano
- Lannie Battistini - piano
- LaRue Nickelson - guitar
- Les Blachut - vibraphone
- Les Sabler - guitar (smooth jazz)
- Linda Cole - vocalist
- Lisa Casalino - vocalist
- Longineu Parsons - trumpet, flute, vocals
- Lynne Arriale - piano
- Marc Vee - guitar
- Marcus Roberts - piano
- Mark Barrios - guitar (smooth jazz)
- Mark Chiriboga - guitar (myspace)
- Mark Siracusa - drums, percussion
- Mark Zauss - trumpet
- Matthew Wengerd - bass
- Michael Hawley - guitar
- Michael Leasure - guitar, composer
- Michael Orta - piano
- Michael Petrovich - guitar (smooth)
- Michael Ross - bass, bandleader
- Miguel Gonzalez - guitar
- Mike Tarrani - drums
- Nate Najjar - guitar

spirit and accuracy of the performance. Certainly, this is one of the best jazz 'things' to come out of Florida in some time. Don't let it escape you. In one word: "refreshing". - PCJ



Get your copy of "Out of This Town" at: [Itunes](#), [Amazon](#) or [CD Baby](#).



Posted by [KM](#) at 9:05 AM

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- Scott Mariash - drums
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