



MUSIC REVIEW

Jack Mouse

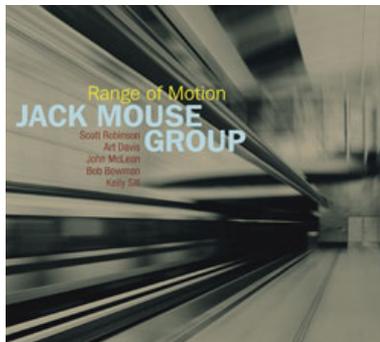
RANGE OF MOTION

by Lloyd Sachs, Jazzespress

In jazz, there are times when you can judge a book by its covers, and an artist by the musicians he pays tribute to with his own compositions. That's the case with veteran drummer Jack Mouse's new album, *Range of Motion*, which includes songs written for or dedicated to the great Bunky Green, '50s innovator John LaPorta, Henry Mancini and Shelley Manne. He also scores points with a dedication to hockey great Bobby Orr, 'Hip Check.'

Recording for the first time under his own name, Mouse leads a topnotch quintet including saxophonist Scott Robinson, whose album *Bronze Nemesis I* reviewed several weeks back, trumpeter Art Davis, he of the beautiful tone and exceptional touch, and guitarist John McLean, whose charged, textured sound gives the music a post-fusion edge.

A drummer of freewheeling strength who has played with the likes of James Moody and Kenny Burrell, Mouse is an old-school guy. But there's nothing dated about his songs, which range from the New Orleans-fueled 'Slow Helen' to the infectious tempo-changing 'Mean Streak,' written while he was Bunky Green, to the lovely waltz, 'Prairie Dance.'



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SAMPLE SOUNDCLIPS:

LaPorta:

Mean Streak

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