

New Issues

RICH PEARE, DON MESSINA BLUES FOR PETER

NEW ARTISTS

STRIKE UP THE BAND/ DON'T BLAME ME/ IT'S YOU OR NO ONE/ FOOLIN' MYSELF/ YOU
STEPPED OUT OF A DREAM/ BLUES FOR PETER/ ALL OF ME/ YESTERDAYS 50 :10

Rich Peare, Classical g; Don Messina, bass New jersey 2020

Another version of a duet, my favorite combination. But here we have guitar and bass, and they are playing standards. Really looking forward to this. And it sounds to me that the guitar is unamplified, which is a delight to my ears.

The opening tune clearly defines the whole record. It truly strikes up the band. I love Peare's interplay of single notes and chords and Messina really pushes things along. I took out my brushes and played along. And Don't Blame Me should be titled Praise Me. The interplay between the two players is excellent.

The duo varies things nicely with different tempos and textures. A real highlight for me is Foolin' Myself. The interplay between the two is wonderful and Messina's solo here fits in beautifully.

And one must mention the excellent playing by both men on the title track, which I assume is improvised as both get composer credit.

This is the kind of record that you might put on for background music but you will constantly be pulled in to listen carefully. These two players demand to be carefully listened to. Highly recommended.

Bernie Koenig

KAZZRIE JAXEN, DON MESSINA THE DANCE NEW ARTISTS

CONFIRMATION/ FOLLOW/ KARY'S TRANCE/ MY MELANCHOLY BABY/ THE MIRROR CALLS/
WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED LOVE/ WILL I FIND MY LOVE TODAY/ YOU'D BE SO NICE TO COME
HOME TO 48:45

Kazzrie Jaxen, p, voc, Don Messina bass Mahwah New Jersey March 2019

This is the third record I have reviewed with Don Messina. All are different, which shows what a flexible a player he is. This record just confirms this, to make a pun on the opening tune.

Jazen is hard swinging pianist with a nice voice. She mixes vocals with great solos. She includes some nice dissonances with nice melodic lines. I love how she uses the very high notes. Kary's Trance is anything but trancelike, as it is a real up-tempo swinger. And Messina's solo here is also great.

Melancholy baby is anything but, taken at a nice up tempo. If you are feeling melancholy, this will get you out of that mood.

The last tune sums it up. This record would nice to come home to.

Bernie Koenig