

CLAUDIO RODITI

Brazilliance X 4
RESONANCE RECORDS

Trumpet/flugelhorn player Claudio Roditi pays tribute to Brazil with an array of 10 tunes, mostly bossa novas and sambas, performed with pianist Helio Alves, bassist Leonard Cioglia, and drummer Duduka da Fonseca.

Roditi, born May 28, 1946 in Rio de Janeiro, shows his mastery on both trumpet and the mellower-sounding flugelhorn and his cohorts support his musings with finesse. Included in the tasty fare are four Roditi originals and a Miles Davis tune ("Tune Up"), all given Brazilian beats. The varied mixture of ballads and bouncers flows neatly from one tune to the other. One of the prettiest tunes (on flugelhorn) is Roditi's elegant "Song for Nana," dedicated to singer Nana Caymmi. Roditi's trumpet playing is crisp and precise, especially notable on his brisk-paced 10:53-minute original, "Tema para Duduka," which also yields generous solo space to Duduka's trapwork.

Roditi began musical studies at age five, was exposed to jazz recordings from his American uncle's collection and, at age 20, was a finalist in the International Jazz Competition in Vienna. He moved to Boston, where he studied at the Berklee School of Music in 1970-71. Within a few years, he was in New York, where he performed and recorded with McCoy Tyner, Tito Puente, Joe Henderson, Herbie Mann, Tito Puente, Paquito D'Rivera and others. In 1989, he gained wider exposure as a member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nation Orchestra. He continues to tour and record.

Roditi has chosen the right material and the right musicians for this project. Recorded in the studio and live, this is a splendid outing that spotlights Roditi's abundant talents as player, composer and leader. *Nancy Ann Lee*

SHEMEKIA COPELAND

Never Going Back
TELARC

When Shemekia Copeland burst onto the blues scene from Harlem in 1998 she was a 19 year old with a voice that could shout down a freight train. While she still has all that power, the ensuing years have taught her how to restrain it in service of her songs giving her the ability to deliver a broader range of material.

This collection finds her taking on everything from Joni Mitchell's jazzy *Black Crow* to Buddy and Julie Miller's swampy *Dirty Water* to Paul Thorn's rocking *Rise Up* to her father, Johnny Copeland's, blues drenched *Circumstances*. Copeland's new found control also pays dividends in the service of her own tunes. On *Sounds Like the Devil* her disgust is evident as she takes an unflinching look at the use of God for political ends or as a tool for personal financial advancement. Her producer, John Hahn and guitarist Oliver Wood, who contribute several numbers here, give her a great vehicle to try out some edgy funk on *Never Going Back to Memphis*.

As good as these cuts are it is the R & B/Soul numbers where she shines brightest. *Broken World*, *Born a Penny*, *Big Brand New Religion* and Percy Mayfield's *River's Invitation* reveal an upbeat sass to her voice that conjures up thoughts of Aretha. This one will get lots of spins.

Mark Smith

EDDIE DANIELS & ROGER KELLAWAY

A Duet of One: Live at the Bakery
IPO RECORDINGS

Clarinetist Eddie Daniels and pianist Roger Kellaway come together for a mix of 10 standards and originals on this well-produced 2005 live date at The Jazz Bakery in Los Angeles.

The disc opens with a lively interpretation of "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You" that shows how imaginatively and freely these two musicians work together. Daniels contributes four tunes, including the lovely "Adagio Swing" on which he demonstrates his mastery in a flowing, fluctuating solo. Kellaway's two originals, the angular, time-shifting "This Is the Time" and the pretty ballad "Love of My Life." The pair also performs Hoagy Carmichael's "New Orleans and the chestnuts "After You've Gone" and "I Want To Be Happy."

Whether comping or soloing, both of these veteran musicians perform with supreme artistry, anticipating what the other will do and together building drama into each tune. They played together for the first time as a duet about 20 years ago and that familiarity comes across on this seamless performance, an ear-pleasing meeting of the minds.

Nancy Ann Lee

JORMA KAUKONEN

River Of Time
RED HOUSE RECORDS

Famous from his days in Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna, Jorma Kaukonen has long been regarded as an acoustic fingerstyle guitar master. While probably best known as a blues guitar stylist, his musical sensibilities transcend generalities in his latest red House disc, "River of Time."

On a varied program of traditional numbers, and modern country folk and country originals, he is joined by the likes of Larry Campbell, Barry Mitterhoff, Lincoln Schleifer and Levon Helm, at whose studio this was recorded. While not possessed with a great voice, Kaukonen's low-key vocals are quite likable and mixed with the exquisite accompaniment. He reworks Gary Davis' "There's a Bright Side Somewhere" into a charming ensemble piece with Mitterhoff's mandolin featured here.

Roy Bookbinder's "Another Man Done a Full Go Round" showcases Kaukonen & Campbell on a marvelous raggy fingerstyle guitar blues, while with a fuller accompaniment Jorma, soloing like Big Bill, delivers an amiable "Trouble in Mind." "Izze's Lullaby" is a charming string band instrumental with Campbell on fiddle and Mitterhoff dueting with Jorma.

Merle Haggard's "More Than my Old Guitar" is a nicely rendered country song, while the Delmore Brothers' "Nashville Blues" is a delightful vocal duet with Teresa Williams with solid understated group backing and solo breaks from Jorma, Mitterhoff, and Campbell. "A Walk With Friends," is another atmospheric instrumental by Jorma, Mitterhoff and Campbell (heard on both fiddle and pedal steel). "Operator" comes from the Grateful Dead songbook, penned by the late Ron 'Pigpen' McKernan, and Campbell's dobro helps support Jorma's plaintive vocal. John Hurt's "Preachin' on the Old Campground" has a bit of old-time