



John Tropea *Gotcha Rhythm Right Here*

STP RECORDS 1011

★★★★½

The accessibility and authority of *Gotcha Rhythm Right Here*, guitarist John Tropea's 11th leader project, make it a particular delight. Sparked by musicians who, like him, are among the best in the jazz business, Tropea drives 13 urbane tracks, most written with co-producer, co-arranger and keyboard wizard Chris Palmaro.

Tropea's versatility as a player and composer spans the romantic, widescreen "Always In My Heart," the goofy pop sketch "Bikini Beach" and the two very different versions of the title tune. The launch version is modern and pointillist, its two-plus minutes the album's leanest and most

abstract. The sequel toward the end conjures "Shaft" on stimulants.

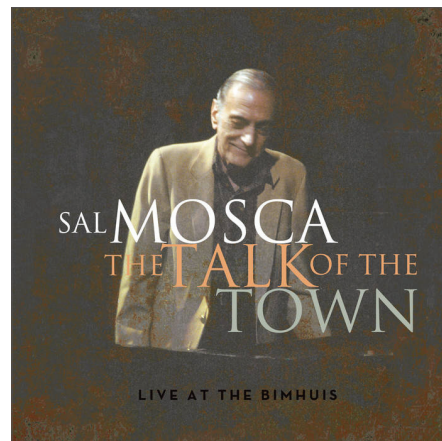
Tropea and Palmaro can also plunk you right inside the carnival. "Boulevard Strut," featuring the cheerleader vocals of Rallybop, Keith Carlock's haughty drums and Tommy McDonnell's Latin percussion, puts you in the middle of a party. No matter the configuration of musicians, the album is of a piece. It's also produced with startling transparency and presence. If you like your funk rich, you'll particularly like these cuts. If you like music with character and personality, *Gotcha Rhythm Right Here* is a keeper through and through.

—Carlo Wolff

Gotcha Rhythm Right Here: *Gotcha Rhythm Right Here*, Part 1; Black Eyed G's; Soul Surrin'; 7th Avenue South; Chili Wa Man; Always in My Heart; Side By Two; Bikini Beach; Les Is Moe'; NYC Direct 2014; Hip To The Hips; *Gotcha Rhythm Right Here*, Part 2; Boulevard Strut. (73:31)

Personnel: Cliff Almond, drums (9, 10); Randy Brecker, trumpet (8, 10); Clint de Gannon, drums (6); Glenn Drews, trumpet (3, 4, 7, 10, 12); Larry Farrell, trombone (2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13); Lee Finkelstein, drums (7); Duke Gadd, percussion (11); Steve Gadd, drums (11); Bill Harris, alto saxophone (5), tenor saxophone (8, 10, 12), baritone saxophone (13); Don Harris, trumpet (5, 12, 13); Neil Jason, bass; Keith Karlock, drums (13); Zev Katz, bass (9); Will Lee, bass (6, 13); Bob Malach, tenor saxophone (5); Dave Mann, tenor saxophone (2, 4, 7); Lou Marini, alto saxophone (2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12), tenor saxophone (11, 13), flute (6, 9); Tommy McDonnell, percussion (13); Bob Millikan, trumpet (3); Chris Palmaro, Hammond B3, piano, bass, drums, percussion, strings; Shawn Pelton, drums (3, 5); Leon Pendarvis, piano; Rallybop, vocals (13); Dave Riekenberg, baritone saxophone (4); Scott Robinson, bass saxophone (3); Roger Rosenberg, baritone saxophone (2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12), bass saxophone (11); Hanan Rubinstein, guitar (7); Lew Soloff, trumpet (4, 9); Roger Squitero, percussion (4, 8); John Tropea, guitars; Eric Udel, bass (7); James O. "D Train" Williams, vocals (13).

Ordering info: johntropea.com



Sal Mosca *The Talk Of The Town*

SUNNYSIDE 1317

★★★★

Listening to *The Talk Of The Town*, one might imagine the piano medley form had been created for Sal Mosca.

The second release of Mosca's material since his passing, this album features material recorded live at Amsterdam's Bimhuis during his tour of the Netherlands in November 1992.

We can get a glimpse of Mosca's muse from the very first tune, one of a string of stand-alone visits before the medleys kick in. "Ghost Of A Chance," played true to form as a lilting, ruminative yet slightly whimsical lament, offers a mood of wistful, gentle resignation. Having been inspired by other pianists such as Art Tatum, Erroll Garner, Nat "King" Cole, Teddy Wilson and friend and teacher Lennie Tristano, Mosca's fugue-like way of improvising gives a sense of history and a taste of keyboard wisdom.

The Talk Of The Town is sprinkled with more upbeat fare as well, showing off Mosca's affinities with early jazz piano. He strides here and there with "Sweet Georgia Brown," unpacks "I Got Rhythm" and explores the hidden contours of "Topsy." He takes a more danceable approach to "Love Me Or Leave Me," "Scrapple From The Apple" and "Donna Lee." Another ruminative take, this time via "Gone With The Wind," sets the stage for the first medley, showcasing the melodic (and seemingly inevitable) links between "I Can't Get Started" and "Over The Rainbow."

The medleys offer repeated opportunities to get lost as Mosca, who died in July 2007 at age 80, winds his way without interruption through various delectable assortments. This nearly two-hour concert serves as a great introduction to newcomers and a welcome revisit for fans already converted.

—John Ephland

The Talk Of The Town: Disc One: Ghost Of A Chance; Love Me Or Leave Me; Sweet Georgia Brown; Stella's Blues; Donna Lee; Gone With The Wind; Topsy; I Got Rhythm; Medley 1: Over The Rainbow, I Can't Get Started; Scrapple From The Apple; Cherokee. (58:34) Disc Two: Medley 2: Stardust, Dancing In The Dark, Too Marvelous For Words, I Cover The Waterfront, It's The Talk Of The Town, Somebody Loves Me, I Never Knew, Lullaby In Rhythm; Medley 3: Sweet And Lovely, The Man I Love, Groovin' High; I'll Remember April/Limehouse Blues; Medley 4: All The Things You Are, A Night In Tunisia; Medley 5: Yesterdays, Sunnyside Of The Street; Tea For Two; Love For Sale. (60:06)

Personnel: Sal Mosca, piano.

Ordering info: sunnysidezone.com

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