



Michael Carvin Experience *Flash Forward*

MOTEMA 156
★★★★

Known as a drummer of deep swing, exemplary chops and a potent individual voice, Michael Carvin is also famed as a teacher-guru for serious seekers. This is his 10th disc as leader, and his sideman discography is plenty big. But it could have been even bigger. Carvin—not a shrinking violet—has always been doggedly single-minded about whom he chooses to play with. If he deemed the fit was not right or he wouldn't be able to musically be himself, Carvin declined. He recalled having turned down Miles in a late-night phone

call, to which the trumpeter responded, “You’re a crazy mutha-----, you know that?”

Carvin’s latest quartet is, indeed, a very good fit. This veteran’s working unit of the past couple years features younger talents grounded in tradition and willing to stretch. Bassist Jansen Cinco is solid and breathes with Carvin’s expressions. Pianist Yayoi Ikawa lends a modern edge with her expansive harmonic choices, while tenor saxist Keith Loftis exudes class with a gritty edge.

Carvin’s discs have covered wide ground, and he’s taken plenty of chances. His previous 2010 release, *Lost And Found Project 2065*, was a one-take sax-bass-drums free excursion. Although that disc showcased his impressive muscular spontaneity, nothing is as fully satisfying as when Carvin returns to the roots of standards he loves—as on this new disc—and swings righteously.

The drummer produces an earthy, swirling sound while being sensitive, thanks to his crisp technique and dynamic touch. And his fiery, full-of-ideas solo on “In Walked Bud” proves who’s boss. The quartet excels whether blazing on Carvin’s killer arrangement of “Night In Tunisia” (that he originally conceived while working with Dizzy Gillespie) or deeply savoring the melody on their reserved handling of “You Go To My Head.” This is a band Carvin will likely embrace for years to come.

—Jeff Potter

Flash Forward: So What; Sayonara Blues; In Walked Bud; Shame Shame; Night In Tunisia; You Go To My Head; You Stepped Out Of A Dream; Autumn Leaves. (64:58)

Personnel: Michael Carvin, drums; Jansen Cinco, bass; Yayoi Ikawa, piano; Keith Loftis, saxophone.

Ordering info: motema.com

Roberto Magris Septet *Morgan Rewind: A Tribute To Lee Morgan, Vol. 2*

JMOOD 007
★★★★½

Cut down at the age of 33, hard-bop trumpeter Lee Morgan made a sizable impact as a leader and Jazz Messenger, leaving a body of work that was artistically engaging and commercially viable.

Nonetheless, aside from a few big hits, Morgan’s compositions have not entered into the standard language like many of his contemporaries’ did. Italian pianist Roberto Magris is doing his part with his second volume of Morgan tunes, but considering this album’s length, the two-disc set could’ve just as easily been released separately as *Vol. 2* and *Vol. 3*.

While 2010’s *Vol. 1* featured Tootie Heath on drums, Magris’ follow-up septet does not feature any marquee names. Throughout the set, Magris sets a swinging tone, dispensing a strong left hand and confident lines. Trumpeter Hermon Mehari has the biggest shoes to fill, and he does so admirably. He summons blistering chops for a hard-swinging performance that anchors the set. Dense tunes like “Zambia” from Morgan’s *Delightfulee* are pushed by the twin rhythmic team of drummer Brian Steever and percussionist Pablo Sanhueza. While the original recording of “Gary’s Notebook” from *The Sidewinder* revels in frenetic energy, Magris’ rendition is a little too busy with his piano and Peter



Schlamb’s vibraphone rolling together, but the tune rights itself with fine solo spots.

Magris even has the hubris to sneak in a few of his originals. Thankfully, they fit the Morgan mold with “A Summer’s Kiss” reaching for a “Ceora”-like bossa vibe. This is a fun set of hard-driving swing that upholds the spirit of its honoree, shining a light on the trumpeter’s lesser-known compositions.

—Sean J. O’Connell

Morgan Rewind: A Bid For Sid; Exotique; Blue Lace; Cunning Lee; The Sixth Sense; Soft Touch; Gary’s Notebook; Speedball; Libreville; Get Yo Self Together; A Summer’s Kiss; Zambia; Helen’s Ritual; Audio Notebook. (92:33)

Personnel: Roberto Magris, piano; Hermon Mehari, trumpet; Jim Mair, saxophones, flute; Peter Schlamb, vibraphone; Elisa Pruett, acoustic bass; Brian Steever, drums; Pablo Sanhueza, congas, percussion.

Ordering info: jmoodrecords.com



ALI JACKSON *AMALGAMATIONS*

featuring
WYNTON MARSALIS - JD ALLEN
TED NASH - VINCENT GARDNER
AARON GOLDBERG - JONATHAN BATISTE
ELDAR DJANGIROV - OMER AVITAL
SHEDRICK MITCHELL - PHILIP KEUHN
CARLOS HENRIQUEZ - BOBBY ALLENDE
SSC 1378 / in stores NOW

The great New York born, Detroit raised, drummer Ali Jackson has carved a place for himself alongside the greatest musicians of his generation by being a fantastic instrumentalist and tremendous ensemble member. On this new recording Jackson looks to his influences, both musical and personal, to create a program of wide-ranging and exploratory pieces featuring a tremendous cast of his talented friends.



JEROME SABBAGH *THE TURN*

featuring
BEN MONDER
JOE MARTIN
TED POOR
SSC 1385 / in stores NOW

An ensemble that has withstood the obstacles and remained a cohesive unit should be celebrated. Saxophonist/composer Jerome Sabbagh has led his tremendous quartet for ten years, a rare display of stability in jazz today. Over the years, the band has developed a unique sound, which stems in no small part from the high level of musicianship involved.



iTunes.com/AliJackson
iTunes.com/JeromeSabbagh
sunnysiderecords.com

