

SOS JAZZ

November 1995

Steve Million

Million To One

Palmetto 64:25

Steve Million was a semifinalist in the Thelonious Monk piano competition. His formal training is both jazz (North Texas State) and classical (University of Missouri at KC). On his first outing as leader, Million shows that he is a product of his training. His keyboard manner is a bit more formal than Monk, yet not as stiff as a concert pianist. Six of the ten songs on this release are Million originals. There is a Latin number, a sprinkling of bop and a nice blues piece, "No Pork #44." This record features his arrangements for quintet and his sidemen, Michael Brecker (trumpet) and Chris Potter (saxophone), more than it does his piano technique. If I had to say who he sounds most like, I'd have to pick Mulgrew Miller. If his rendition of Thelonious' "Boo Boo's Birthday" was any indication, I say, Yo' Steve, your follow up album should feature all Monk tunes. Palmetto Records 1-800-PALM CD'S