

Steve Million Trio

Poetic Necessities



Steve Million—piano
Dave Marr—bass
Tim Davis—drums

This disc burst out of the stereo on the first song, "Into Onto," with such ferocity that I was hooked right away. I knew this would be a fun listen and I wasn't disappointed. The repertoire is varied with Million penning five of the songs and Marr contributing one as well. It's rounded out with a couple of standards, a Monk tune, and a Jerry Goldsmith ballad.

Poetic Necessities is extremely well done with everyone in the band playing tight and definitely getting right to the point. The tunes and arrangements are also very direct, comporting themselves with a quiet dignity—never too much with the accents and unison lines, but just enough. The fourth track, "Necessaire," is in a relaxed tempo, but builds to such intensity that my attention didn't flag. The unique treatment of the standards contributes to the cohesive sound of this CD. It is obvious that the musicians are very sensitive to the piano trio format and handle the subtleties with aplomb. But there is plenty of hard swingin' at some serious tempos on this CD and that's the way I like it.

I would recommend this to a wide audience because I think it is actually very accessible to listeners unaccustomed to jazz. There is nothing ponderous about this disc. It moves forward with momentum that starts from the very first song. The results are very tuneful and tasteful. Make no doubt about it; this is a fantastic piano trio record...I may never listen to my Brad Meldau CDs again.

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