

# Cadence

THE REVIEW OF JAZZ & BLUES: CREATIVE IMPROVISED MUSIC

## STEVE MILLION, POETIC NECESSITIES, BLUJAZZ 9310.

*Into Onto / Coming on the Hudson / Rooster Dance / Necessaire /  
Tin Sign Bop / Dark Song / Second Hand Smoke (at the Green Mill)  
/ Where Are You? / Where Are You? / "Eat Me Baby" / While We're  
Young. 58:46.*

Million, p; Dave Marr, b; Tim Davis, d. 3/18-19/03.

Chicago-area Jazz pianist Steve Million charges out of the gate with "Into Onto." The original proves a fitting opener, introducing both Million's compositional style and piano style. The four cover tunes are well selected both to complement the originals and for giving exposure to mostly little played tunes (the Monk being the exception). His pieces fall within that late 1980s progressive mode that bridges the most advanced Hard Bop and free. His lines dart across the upper reaches of the harmonies. His solos are fleet extensions of those melodic-harmonic constructions. The most interesting composition is "Second Hand Smokin'" which at first sounds uncharacteristic. It opens with Million laying down a funky Blues lick, but before you can say cliché, the line sweeps away into more modern and distinctive territory and away from the tried-and-true. The effect is montage-like with the ready-to-hand Blues phrase evoking the image of a smoky Blues club before Million rhapsodizes in his own language on what that place means to him. I had an immediate positive feeling about the disc when I read in the acknowledgements that Million treasured the joint, the Green Mill, as both a place to perform and as a place to hang out. I find it easy to imagine the Million trio holding forth on a small club stage. Bassist Dave Marr highlights the tunes' harmonies. His own piece, "Rooster Dance," shows he's a kindred spirit with the leader. Tim Davis proves both an effective colorist—notably with his hand drumming on "Coming on the Hudson"—as well as a sparkling time keeper. The ensemble sounds very convivial, as if they've worked together for while. A fine session by an estimable working trio.

David Dupont