

OTTAWA CITIZEN
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Pianist Million gets overdue exposure

Thanks a Million ★★★½
Steve Million (Palmetto)

With New York's considerable stable of talents receiving so much attention on CDs, it's a relief to see lesser-known, but no less talented, musicians such as Steve Million get some exposure.

Million is a Chicago pianist and a good one, as learned and versatile as many of his Big Apple peers.

Million writes well and frequently, taking a modernist's approach to update the hard-bop sound.

On his CD *Thanks A Million* (ouch), the leader enlists a top-notch crew of New Yorkers: saxophonist Chris Potter, trumpeter Randy Brecker, bassist Michael Moore and drummer Ron Vincent.

With 10 tunes averaging six minutes a pop, Million's disc seems a bit tightly circumscribed.

Perhaps fewer tunes with solos that stretched more would have made for a more intense CD.

But there's no denying the the considerable ability and polish already on display.

Peter Hum

Ratings key

Excellent: ★★★★★

Good: ★★★★

Average: ★★★

Fair: ★★

Poor: ★

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