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BRAD SHEPIK GUITAR

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SCOTT COLLEY BASS

TOM RAINEY

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ALL COMPOSITIONS BY BRAD SHEPIK AND PUBLISHED BY FELIJAR MUSIC (BMI) 2001 EXCEPT KAREDOK LUENCA (SUNDANESE TRAD. ARR. SHEPIK)



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Listen to Brad Shepik and you'll hear a guitar style at once technically prodigious and tastefully restrained. You'll also hear the voice of a complete musician self-assured,

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well-traveled. humble in his openness to new possibilities. Shepik has immersed himself in music from the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East through his work with the Paradox Trio, Pachora, Tridruga, Dave Douglas's Tiny Bell Trio, and his own group, which has released two CDs, "The Loan" and "The Well", both on the Songlines label. His study of non-Western music has led him to master odd meters and explore unfamiliar stringed instruments such as the saz. Concurrent stints with Yuri Yunakov and Paul Motian's Electric Bebop Band encouraged him to integrate his wide-ranging tastes even further. And lately he's been revealing his

rock side as a member of drummer Joey Baron's lissome twoguitar unit, Killer Joey.

In the crowded field of modern jazz guitar, Brad Shepik has defied every norm, cultivating an original, versatile approach and making hear a broad variety of music his own. "Short Trip" finds Shepik filtering his influned. ence through the prism of a wonderful new trio. With a warm jazz tone, a melodic set of tunes, and supple support from **bassist**

> Scott Colley and drummer Tom Rainey, Shepik pilots his way through a vivid landscape, accenting his lyrical gifts. These capacious tracks bear witness to Shepik's continual growth as a hardy improviser and a musical storyteller, a guitarist with a unique ability to make his compositions sing and dance.

DAVID R. ADLER allaboutjazz.com

I don't want to talk about all those styles. Listening to music is what happens when we close our eyes and forget about all that. After all, isn't it to that world — beyond thoughts, categories, ideas — that composers and musicians wish to appeal? It's when the ideas about style and image fade away that we can really get to the heart of the music. Style should be subsumed by content, and on this record Brad communicates directly with a sound that's all his own. Like most Americans interested in studying music, Brad has been drawn to jazz, studying and performing it for years before moving to New York. When I first met him he was busy mastering the music of Thelonious Monk. Not just the melodies or the chords, but the whole music — all the parts. musical roots for Brad. Sure, you'll hear an odd meter here and an Eastern scale there, but what I hear most is a top quality ensemble playing original music with depth and confidence. Brad has written a bunch of great new



BRAD SHEPIK



tunes with a variety of stylistic connotations. There's a warmth to the songs and a personal sense of rhythm that has Brad Shepik written all over it. Scott and Tom are

digging into the music with empathy and attention to detail. Forget about the "style" and hear the songs and how they are played. This is a great band with an exciting chemistry and well crafted dynamics.

It's a classic album of new music to enjoy.

DAVE DOUGLAS New York, February 2001