



JORGE ROSSY *Stay There*

Jorge Rossy, vibes, marimba; Mark Turner, tenor saxophone; Peter Bernstein, guitar; Doug Weiss, bass; Al Foster, drums
Pirouet PIT3096 (CD). 2016. Jason Seizer, prod.; Daniel Dettwiler, eng. DDD.
TT: 51:34

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

SONICS ★★★★★

After several high-profile years as the drummer in pianist Brad Mehldau's trio, Jorge Rossy opted to become a full-time pianist himself, and his leader output on that instrument has attested to the refinement and broad scope of his musicianship. On *Stay There*, however, Rossy exclusively plays vibraphone and marimba, focusing on original music with a top-shelf and startlingly strong band.

On one level, this is a no-fuss date of swinging straight-ahead jazz. The quintet plays through the tunes, highlights the singing melodies, and stays within a calm, simmering dynamic range. But the blend of Rossy's vibes with Peter Bernstein's guitar and Mark Turner's tenor sax is beautiful and utterly refreshing, from the brief chamber-jazz ballad "Mark's Mode" to the hard-bop feel of "Mmmyeah" and "W Waltz."

There are shades here of Bobby Hutcherson with Grant Green, or perhaps Paul Desmond with Jim Hall. Yet Rossy's writing has its own harmonic push-and-pull that sends the players into areas they might not otherwise go. The result is some of Turner's most luminous work on record.

The presence of veteran drummer Al Foster, down to the inclusion of his own bossa nova-tinged "Pauletta," lends another layer of depth. (It also helps that Rossy hired Doug Weiss, Foster's bassist of choice.) Six of the 10 tracks feature Foster's lightly stepping, deeply bluesy brushwork. His surefootedness and sonic creativity stand out in Guillermo Klein's "ArteSano," a marimba feature full of irregular patterns and involved ensemble counterpoint.

—David R. Adler



JERI SOUTHERN *Blue Note, Chicago: March 1956*

Jeri Southern, vocals, piano; Al Bruno, double bass; Dominic "Mickey" Simonetta, drums
Uptown UPCD 27.84 (CD). Robert E. Sunenblick, MD, David A. Sunenblick, prods.; Frank Holzfiend, eng.; Doug Benson, audio restoration. ADD. TT: 68:15

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

SONICS ★★★★★

Even great jazz artists are often forgotten, lost to the merciless ravages of time. Jeri Southern had a brief run in the 1950s. Singers such as Frank Sinatra and Nat "King" Cole respected her as a peer. But her career ended in 1962, when she was 36. She lived 30 more years, but stopped performing, due not to the usual pitfalls of the jazz life, but because she suffered from stage fright.

Today, her name is rapidly fading into the shadows of history.

Enter Dr. Robert E. Sunenblick. His Uptown label rescues lost music and publishes it in CD packages with informative liner notes, nostalgic photographs, and optimized sound.

Southern's art was introverted and nuanced. She often talked a song, in a small, little-girl-lost voice that recalls Blossom Dearie. But Southern had real pipes, and could ascend dramatic crescendos when she chose. Her intonation and diction were flawless. Torch songs were her sweet spot. Her versions of "You Better Go Now" (her only hit), "Scarlet Ribbons," and "He Was Too Good to Me" sound unadorned, almost matter-of-fact. But her clarity and sincerity place each song in a special, pure, standalone domain.

This album comes from a club long closed, whose long-deceased owner, Frank Holzfiend, made his own recordings. The sound is just good enough. Southern made you come to her. Then, as she sings a great, familiar song like "When I Fall in Love," you hear its brave, fragile human vow of faith as if for the first time.

—Thomas Conrad

Your ticket to high end audio

Lewis Audio Video

Since 1981
Custom Solutions
www.lewisav.com • 503.538.1190

Conrad Johnson	Rega
Martin Logan	EAT
NAD Masters	Control4
REL	NAIM
Anthem	Paradigm
SONY Projectors	NAD Classic
Integra Research	Quadraspire
Savant	OPPO
Focal	Integra
Primare	Cambridge
Triad	Purman
Sony ES	
Sony XBR	And many more

naim

FOCAL

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
AT THE GATEWAY TO
OREGON'S WINE COUNTRY**

2112 Portland Road, Newberg, OR
503.538.1190 • www.lewisav.com