

Ernesto Cervini's Turboprop

Rev

ANZIC RECORDS 0059

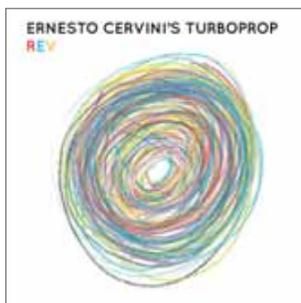
★★★★

The latest project by Ernesto Cervini's Turboprop focuses on its American and Canadian band members' melodious compositions with equal sharing of the spotlight. *Rev* has a relaxed vibe, with the sextet locking in with tight horn lines, solo features and group interplay. Bandleader Cervini, who hails from Toronto, is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist on clarinet, piano and drums.

Feel-good improvisation on the title track delivers memorable fun, with floating chromatic horn lines shapeshifting behind Cervini's driving drum solo. "Granada Bus" is an imaginative, fiery feature of Davidson, Farrugia and Frahm. Cervini anticipates and shapes emerging improvisatory ideas and propels his bandmates' playful ideas.

Lyrical, inventive writing by Cervini's sextet members complements the two tracks penned by the drummer/bandleader/producer. Compositional displays showcase dazzling melodic writing and arranging from Toronto trombonist/composer William Carn, spirited upbeat flourishes from New York bassist Dan Loomis and high-energy exploration from Toronto pianist Adrean Farrugia.

—Kerlie McDowall



Rev: The Libertine; Granada Bus; No Rain; Rev; The Daily Mail; Pennies From Heaven; Ranthem; Act Of Instability. (48:42)

Personnel: Ernesto Cervini, drums; Tara Davidson, soprano and alto saxophones; Joel Frahm, tenor saxophone; William Carn, trombone; Adrean Farrugia, piano; Dan Loomis, bass.

Ordering info: ernestocervini.com

Richie Cole Latin Lover

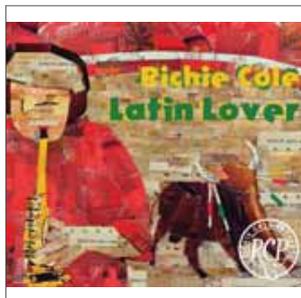
RCP 005

★★½

Following the death of Phil Woods, Richie Cole stands as the leading reminder of the seductive power of the alto saxophone when it's played fluidly over sophisticated changes. Unfortunately, the spell is broken when the tune doesn't pass muster.

Cole is at his fleet, inventive best on "If I Only Had A Brain." He sails through the melody, building in asides and rubato phrases, and nodding to Charlie Parker with a reference to "Stormy Weather." It's not particularly Latin in feel, but it's an exhilarating ride. At the other end of the spectrum is a cheesed-up take on "Lonely Bull," which was cheesy enough in Herb Alpert's hands, without the pseudo-Ennio Morricone vocal effects and castanets. Neil Sedaka's "Laughter In The Rain" fares little better for the subtle South American vibe that Kevin Moore's Rhodes and Vince Taglieri's percussion add to it. There's meatier fare to be found on "Cielito Lindo," a traditional Mexican song that lets Cole and Moore take wing, and Debussy's "L'Eclipse De Lune," which melts like butter in Cole's horn. Overall, this has the feel of an early '60s "easy listening" album—thin gruel for someone as skilled as Cole.

—James Hale



Latin Lover: If I Only Had A Brain; Cielito Lindo; L'Eclipse De Lune; Lonely Bull; Serenata; Laughter In The Rain; Girl From Carnegie; Harlem Nocturne; Island Breeze; Indicted For Love; Malibu Breeze; Almost Like Being In Love. (61:18)

Personnel: Richie Cole, alto saxophone, vocals (4); Eric Suseoff, guitars; Kevin Moore, piano; Fender Rhodes; Mark Perna, bass, vocals (4); Vince Taglieri, drums, castanets (4); Rick Matt, baritone saxophone (4); Nancy Kepner, Jim Barr, George Heid, Tony Goreczny, vocals (4).

Ordering info: markpernamusic.com

Rob Schneiderman Tone Twister

HOLLISTIC MUSICWORKS 16

★★★★½

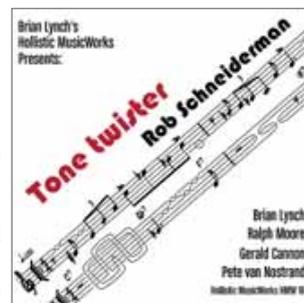
Throughout his sideman stints with notables such as James Moody, J. J. Johnson, Art Farmer and Eddie Harris, his tenure in the band TanaReid and his 10 previous discs as a leader, pianist Rob Schneiderman has shown a straightforward heart marked by lyricism and no-nonsense taste.

That holds true on this set featuring eight originals burnished with subtle left turns and infused with shades of Latin ("Footloose Freestyle"), blues ("Tone Twister") and even a dose of half-time funk ("Left Coast Lullaby"). The centerpiece grabber is "Slapdance-Tapstick," an uptempo swinger inspired by tap dancer Buster Brown.

This quintet's sumptuous sound owes much to the rich, warm frontline union of trumpeter Brian Lynch (who owns the label and produced) and tenor saxophonist Ralph Moore. These two luminaries are, of course, tremendous soloists. But the key here is their rare sonic blend.

Bassist Gerald Cannon—taking time off from his long tenure as McCoy Tyner's musical director—lends his signature fat, solid support, while drummer Peter Van Nostrand is grooving, probing and catalyzing throughout. In essence, it's the sound of a deeply connected quintet.

—Jeff Potter



Tone Twister: Footloose Freestyle; Unforgettable; Left Coast Lullaby; Distant Memory; Slapdance-Tapstick; Windblown; Tone Twister; Tailspin; The Lion's Tale. (61:00)

Personnel: Rob Schneiderman, piano; Brian Lynch, trumpet; Ralph Moore, tenor saxophone; Gerald Cannon, bass; Peter Van Nostrand, drums.

Ordering info: robschneiderman.bandcamp.com

Musicianer Slow Learner

ILUSO RECORDS 08

★★★★

This trio plays together with an ease and fluency that bespeaks a couple decades of shared experience between baritone saxophonist Josh Sinton, bassist Jason Ajemian and drummer Chad Taylor. When Sinton's tunes call for a groove, they move with him like synchronized dancers.

Sinton writes melodies that could fit a singer's voice as easily as they do his horn's, and he imbues them with lived-in emotion. The way "Can't Really Say" drops to a hush halfway through, he might be mustering up courage for an apology or a tender plea. And when he scales the upper registers before lurching into some urgent funk on "Evening Of Mourning (Ferguson Goddam)," you feel the dismay. A generous leader, Sinton lets his accompanists score some of the points; Taylor's intricate drumming on "Pork Bueno" feels so eager that the listener may feel like they're right next to him at the BBQ take-out window, mouth watering while they wait for their number to be called. And Ajemian's bowed punctuation of "Devoid Of Form, Devoid Of Meaning" communicates the song's gravity every bit as forcefully as the keening saxophone. If this is what "slow learning" sounds like, Sinton should keep on taking his time.

—Bill Meyer

Slow Learner: Outside; Can't Really Say; And Then It Came To Me; Sunday's Rehearsal; Jimmy; Evening Of Mourning (Ferguson Goddam); Pork Bueno; Devoid Of Form, Devoid Of Meaning; Left-Side Paralysis; Fall Beautiful. (47:07)

Personnel: Josh Sinton, baritone saxophone, keyboards; Jason Ajemian, bass; Chad Taylor, drums, percussion; Eivind Opsvik, keyboards.

Ordering info: ilusorecords.bandcamp.com

