

# NEW ISSUES



Leo Smith by Gerard Futrick

Despite this overly-addressed arena, this is a tribute record with a twist. Rather than having a piano as the lead instrument, Antonio Cavicchi's guitar takes on the role as the chief melodic source on this nine composition program of music composed by, associated with, or inspired by Evans. For the most part, this is a well-performed session that goes down easy. Pieces like the two Earl Zinders-penned cuts including the midtempo swing of the opening "Mother of Earl" or the shuffling waltz of "How My Heart Sings" demonstrate the good-naturedness of the proceedings. Of course, any Evans tribute is going to be filled with Evans' romantic ideals, seen best on Evans' own pieces like the shimmering beauty of "Turn Out The Stars," a nice feature for Cavicchi and Tavolazzi's lyrical solo statements, the lovely bounce of "Periscope," the precious "Show-tipe Tune" and the drive of the concluding "Funkallero." Speaking of such pep anchored by Biancoli and Tavolazzi, the rhythm section also shines on Jim Hall's "Down From Antigua" and the pleasant stroll of "How Deep Is The Ocean." Worth mentioning though, is if you have a problem with the Jazz vocalizing along the likes of Oscar Peterson or Erroll Garner (but not as intrusive as Keith Jarrett), both Cavicchi and Tavolazzi enjoy adding their vocalizations over their solos, so this trait may prove to be off-putting. While there is nothing new here that hasn't already been recorded many times over, a record like this encourages listeners to sit back, relax, and let the music unfold.

*Jay Collins*

## 1) PETE RODRIGUEZ EL ALQUIMISTA (THE ALCHEMIST)

CONDE 2782

*JIVE STATE SUITE (WHO DO I TRUST? / NOT GOOD ENOUGH / REFLECTION / THE TRUTH WILL ALWAYS SURFACE / MY PATIENCE) / POR SI LAS MOSCAS, ROBERTO / SCORPION / EL INDIO / SHAMBALA / EL ALQUIMISTA. 56:00.*

Rodriguez, tpt; David Sanchez, ts; Luis Perdomo, p, el p;

**H**erewith, three CDs in a Hardbop/Postbop mode. None of this is "pure" in the stylistic sense. It does show you that good music, like Duke said, is beyond category.

Trumpeter Pete Rodriguez (1) has been on the Latin music scene for some time and emerges now as a leader with a CD that places his talent at the service of Latin flavored Neo-Hardbop. He puts together a top-notch band for this date, with the well known David Sanchez turning in some great tenor work. Then again the entire band is on a roll.

Pete's album opens with the five-part "Jive State Suite." There is nothing lightweight about it. As a reference point, the later Freddie Hubbard Blue Notes come to mind while listening to the opening "Who Do I Trust." It is a minor mode, mid-Swing vehicle that flirts with a kind of quasi-Free Latin style as well. Pianist Perdomo gets some space to show a strong suite of modern improvisational phrases. Everyone plays with conviction. A waltzing Swing and