

ANNE DRUMMOND

Like Water (ObliqSound)



Aptly titled, flutist Anne Drummond's debut recording as a leader is an exercise in fluidity, alternating between flowing ballads and surging, uptempo numbers. A member of Kenny Barron's *Canta Brasil* project, the rising star, who has also worked with vibraphonist Stefon Harris and bassist Avishai Cohen, offers a Rio-flavored album featuring originals as well as fresh arrangements of Brazilian songs.

Toninho Horta's "Aqueles Coisas Todas" sets the tone with bassist Nilson Matta, pianist Klaus Mueller, drummer Duduka Da Fonseca and cellist Dave Eggar getting into a driving groove, Drummond's flute carrying a vocal-like quality. Her original title track comes next, slowing things down and showcasing her unique lyricism. Antonio Cesar Camargo Mariano's "Curumim" is a lovely duet, Drummond's flute dancing around Mueller's piano in a playful exchange. "Lazy Afternoon," a sweet ballad on which Eggar, Drummond and Mueller all take turns shining, is followed by the fiery "Afoxamba," inspired by the Afro-Brazilian *afoxé* rhythm. The strong rapport between Drummond and her Brazilian rhythm section, formed during their joint tenure with Barron's Brazilian group, is highlighted on Matta's seductive "Bossa for Copacabana." The album closes with "Spring," co-written by Drummond and Mark Bordenet, and featuring the eloquent Xavier Davis on piano. As with all of Drummond's originals on this session, the tune's subtle, sparse string arrangements enhance the overall effect, the ensemble riding its alluring, expanding melody.

Drummond shows a great sense of leadership here, her fine technique imbued with spirit and imagination. Delivering this promising concept album as her first effort, one can't help but wonder where Drummond might go next. **SHARONNE COHEN**