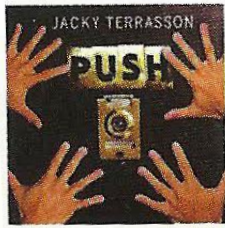


JACKY TERRASSON

Push (Concord Jazz)



Jacky Terrasson's debut recording on Concord Jazz introduces his new trio of Ben Williams (Stefon Harris; winner of the 2009 Monk Competition) on bass and Jamire Williams (Kenny Garrett, Christian Scott) on drums, both gifted young musicians on the NYC scene. With guest appearances by Gregoire Maret (harmonica), Jacques Schwarz-Bart (sax), Matthew Stevens (guitar) and Cyro Baptista (percussion), this is a well-balanced set linked to Terrasson's past yet forging ahead in new directions.

The album consists of seven Terrasson originals as well as unique interpretations of four standards: Thelonious Monk's "Ruby, My Dear" features delicate interplay between Terrasson and Maret, the brush work of Jamire Williams enhancing the tender mood; "Body and Soul" is, unexpectedly, synthesized with a wide-open adaptation of Michael Jackson's "Beat It"; and Cole Porter's "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To" and Monk's "Round Midnight" receive straight-ahead yet characteristically skilled and inventive treatments. The opener, "Gaux Girl" (a reference to Terrasson's daughter, Margaux), is a free-

spirited, pop-infused number, while the frenetic "Beat Bop" counters with burning intensity. Schwarz-Bart takes things out as "Morning" reaches its sudden conclusion, followed by Ben Williams' poignancy on the soulful "My Church." Terrasson pushes the proverbial envelope in terms of his arrangements, new material and vocal efforts. Aside from exuberant voiced articulations occasionally heard over stirring, dexterous piano improv, Terrasson makes his vocal debut on two tunes: "Say Yeah" and the Afro-Latin "O Café, O Soleil," with Baptista's percussion and hand claps closing this diverse, dynamic album. **SHA-**

RONNE COHEN