

## YOTAM

*Resonance* (JLP)



This third leader outing by Israeli-born, NYC-based Yotam (Silberstein), his first on Jazz Legacy, features a superb ensemble consisting of Christian McBride on bass, Aaron Goldberg on piano and Gregory Hutchinson on drums, with guest trumpeter Roy Hargrove on two tunes. The choice of material—a combination of bop standards, original compositions, Latin rhythms and staples of Israeli pop music—reflects the various influences shaping this gifted young guitarist's creative drive.

Yotam and co. come out blazing on the Dizzy Gillespie-John Lewis bop classic "Two Bass Hit," the leader shining with remarkable facility as the entire unit swings with a strong sense of chemistry sustained throughout the recording. The captivating bossa number "McDavid"—a Yotam original—follows, capturing his interest in Brazilian music, while Monty Alexander's "Renewal" is tinged with Hutchinson's reggae-flavored drums. A fast-

paced rendition of Clifford Brown's timeless "Daahoud" showcases Hargrove's lustrous trumpet, appearing once again on Joe Henderson's "Mamacita." The tender ballad "Merav" harkens back to Yotam's roots, revealing the influence of composers such as Yoni Rechter, whose "The Most Beautiful Girl"—a popular Israeli children's song—is given a fresh take. "Fresh Love Song," an Israeli ballad penned by Shlomo Gronich in the 1970s, is beautifully rendered here, as McBride's pizzicato lays down the poignant melody before it is reiterated by Yotam's ethereal vocals and then played on a fretless 11-string instrument called the goud. The evocative original "Kineret" (Hebrew for "Sea of Galilee") closes the set, affirming Yotam's musicianship both as a composer and player, and demonstrating a maturity far beyond his 28 years. **SHARONNE COHEN**