

Sal Mosca – *Thing-Ah-Majig* – Zinnia Records 118

A rare treat! Rebounding from seven years of illnesses, pianist Sal Mosca has recorded his first trio recording since 1959. His music created with bassist Don Messina and drummer Bill Chatten reveals underpinnings of mentor Lennie Tristano's influence. Messina reports (in the liner notes) how the beauty and glory of the music discloses what it's like to witness Mosca on his own piano in his own studio.

Mosca's consistent, open spontaneity and extraordinary musicianship stretches from Art Tatum to Tristano, Prez to Bird, and Bach to Bartok. Mosca is indeed a model teacher worthy of study. His penetrating improvisations are internalized by Messina and Chatten with sensitive eagerness and respect in their responses. The inspired playing of standards such as "I Can't Get Started," "If I Had You," "I'll Remember April," and "How High is the Moon" can blow you away.

Dr. Herb Wong

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