

Sal Mosca

For Lennie Tristano

Fresh Sound 5067

Medley: You Go To My Head, Sweet Georgia Brown/ It's the Talk of the Town/ All the Things You Are/ Prelude to a Kiss/ Medley 11 Night and day, These Foolish Things, That Old Feeling/ Sweet and Lovely/ In a Mist/ Stella by Starlight 49:01

Sal Mosca, p. Mt. Vernon, NY. 1-6 Feb 2, 1970, 7,8 1997

I haven't thought of Lennie Tristano on a long time, so when I got this CD I got out an old Tristano compilation to listen to so I could hear how Mosca pays tribute. Of course I don't expect him to play like Tristano but I still needed that comparison. Tristano played both standards and original compositions. Here Mosca just plays standards.

For me the point is to listen to this CD on two levels: One, as a solo piano record on its own, and two as a tribute record. If the recording is truly successful it will work on both levels. Tristano was both a very lyrical player and a good two-fisted player.

As I listen I can happily say that this recording is successful on both levels. On the first level, Mosca is an excellent player. I am finding the recording very enjoyable as a solo piano concert. And does manage to capture Tristano's style, while being himself. Mosca can be very lyrical as well as what I call two-fisted.

For me the highlight of the CD is the second medley. By segueing into different tunes Mosca shows both his ability to play as his own person as well as to capture aspects of Tristano's style.

The one aspect of Tristano's playing that is not present here is his blues playing. Tristano could play a mean blues. But this is a minor point.

Highly recommended both to fans of Tristano and for people who love good solo piano playing.

Bernie Koenig