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Hendrik Meurkens

A View from Manhattan [Concord Jazz]

Bassist: Leo Traversa, Harvie Swartz

Instruments: Traversa, Tobias 5-string; Swartz, Jaquet acoustic bass

Bass performance: A

Overall performance: B+

German harmonica virtuoso Meurkens mixes originals with freshly arranged standards on this bass-worthy set. Swartz punctuates his pedal tones with low Eb's (via his C extension) on "Naima" and takes the melody and first solo on "A Child Is Born." Traversa counters with a slick samba groove on "The Monster and the Flower" and adds a warm-toned, Swallowesque solo to "Prague in March." (CJ)

Kevyn Lettau

Another Season [JVC]

Bassist: Keith Jones

Instruments: Tune Kingbass 6-string, Tune Woodbass fretless 6-string, Tobias fretless 6-string

Bass performance: A

Overall performance: A

As any true bass-o-phile knows, some of the most happening parts are played by "nameless" studio bassists on pop vocal albums. Trouble is, you can suffer through plenty of stagnant sludge before stumbling upon a disc with such gems. Given ex-Sergio Mendez vocalist Lettau's well-written and well-sung Brazilian-flavored tunes to work with, L.A. sessioner Jones made this one a keeper. Check out his inventive groove work throughout and his gorgeous fretless solo on "Father, Mother." (CJ)

Books


John Patitucci

Ultimate Play-Along for Bass, Level 1

Instructional value: A+

Presentation: B+

If you're an intermediate player with some experience reading charts (if not, see page 42), you'll probably find this package a gold mine of rhythm-section knowledge. Created by Patitucci and drummer Dave Weckl, *Ultimate Play-Along* presents seven examples of common



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