

New Issues



SYLVAN STREET HERE IN AMERICA SUMMIT 567

HERE IN AMERICA/ FREE THE
TORONTO NINE/ I MISS YOUR
TOUCH/ THE MONSTER WHO
KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKIN'
ABOUT/ BLUE J/ SONG FOR M/
POVERTY STRICKEN/ ARENAL/
LUNG-TA (LET THE WIND
CARRY MY PRAYER)*/ FREE
THE TORONTO NINE (RADIO
EDIT). 58:30

JAY REES, B, KYBD*; FRANK
BROWNE, G; ANDREW HIX, D,
VCL; KELLAND THOMAS, SS,
TS; CHAD SHOOPMAN, TPT;
EVAN REES, P, KYBD; MICHAEL
FALTIN, PERC, AGNES HALL,
HARP*. NO DATE GIVEN,
TUCSON, AZ.

appreciation of the music. Shot in studio, it functions almost like a visual score, focusing attention on some of the orchestral nuances as well as putting the spotlight on soloists.

Both these ensembles offer healthy helpings of crack big band sound.

David Dupont

The Arizona-based Jazz Fusion band Sylvan Street's eclectic program includes, among other things, Latin rhythms, straight-ahead Jazz, Funk, chamber-like acoustic music, and program music. And the band does it all well. The mainstream, riff-based blues "Blue J" features walking bass, acoustic piano, and Hard Boppish solos. But the up-tempo funk vocal "Poverty Stricken" includes, on the other hand, wah-wah guitar, synthesized organ, and a long funk-based tenor solo. And although "Free the Toronto Nine" also possesses a funk beat, synth sounds, and distorted guitar—plus screech trumpet—the tune that follows it, "I Miss Your Touch," is a gentle Hix vocal with acoustic guitar accompaniment and a tender soprano saxophone solo. Another subtle track, "Song for M," for piano and soprano only, alternates between a slow rubato and a medium-tempo loping stride. "The Monster Who Knew What He Was Talking About" consists simply of a one and a half minute drum solo and "Lung-Ta (Let the Wind Carry My Prayer)" electronically creates the sound of the wind itself.

Jay Rees wrote all the tunes except Thomas's "Arenal," Evan Rees's "Song for M," and, of course, Hix's drum feature. The improvisers do a fine job of tailoring their solos to the varied nature of the charts.

David Franklin