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Fabrizio Sodani · 28 Oct 2024 ·

Saso Popovski
Steps CD
ART MELODIES

Steps is a sublime, gentle and captivating journey into the realm of jazz guitar, reminiscent of the great Kenny Burrell and Bill Frisell but with a unique flavor. For fans of classic jazz guitars, characterized by their sublime and slow melodies, this album is an unmissable listening. Saso Popovski, skilled guitarist and manager of the Bitola Jazz Festival, brings forward a concept deeply rooted in the constant variation of melodies, emphasizing sound, storylines, interaction and space.

Backed by his usual band with several picturesque guests (keyboardist Vasil Hadzimanov, percussionist Ratko Dautovski, violinist Olivier Samouillan and saxophonist Kiril Kuzmanov), Popovski offers seven originals. Although not someone who will amaze listeners with technical prowess and creative spark,

Popovski captivates them with oceans of smooth harmonic movement and enveloping sound auras. His vocals and mercurial guitar shapes the tunes without being bulky. Popovski combines in his work a great respect for lyricism with harmonic chord lines and a sweet tone. Slow ballads with their subtle harmonies are tastefully sober.

From the composition of the opening title to the closing "Lava", the compositions merge into each other working beautifully even as standalone pieces. In Steps there is an impressive amount of variety shown within the modern jazz mainstream, along with almost telepathic reactions from the musicians. The album is well-programmed with medium-time tracks generally alternated to ballads. The musical landscape of Steps is a captivating tapestry, ranging from actually silent motives to extremely dominant motives. Velvety improvisations and repetitive ornaments add depth to the musical space, creating a rich and evolving sound experience. The album's mood swings from moments of happiness and radiance to slow and

Popovski's Steps is a captivating and deeply rewarding exploration of sound, melody, and emotion. It exudes a sense of discovery mixed with mystery. Popovski's gentle yet profound approach to jazz guitar, combined with the perfect interaction of his band and guest musicians, creates an enchanting experience for listeners. From sublime melodies to intricate harmonies, "Steps" offers a rich and diverse sound palette that invites you to explore its every nuance.

by Nenad Georgievski

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