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Jean-Michel Pilc Trio
Welcome Home (Dreyfus Jazz)
www.dreyfusrecords.com

The 2000 recipient of the prestigious Django Reinhardt Award for best French jazz musician and a resident of New York since 1995, pianist Jean-Michel Pilc and his trio are quickly becoming known as one of the edgiest and most innovative small formations around. Pilc plays with an attack reminiscent of McCoy Tyner's post-Coltrane period, while the band, whether essaying original material or classic tunes by the likes of Miles or Monk, uses melodic dissonance and angular phrasing that upsets expectations and makes jazz very exciting indeed.

"Straight-ahead jazz is now only heard on public radio," notes Douglas Yoel, label manager of Dreyfus Music, who is based in New York. "But Jean-Michel has had time to build a critical and popular following on the East Coast. NPR stations like Newark's WBG0, which reaches New York City, play his music." Distributed by Koch in the U.S., Dreyfus uses independent promoters for certain releases, this one included. "Adventurous retailers like Borders Books and Barnes & Noble are especially helpful with projects like *Welcome Home*," Yoel adds. Dreyfus, a French label, is one of Europe's most successful, propelled by a superb roster of artists, including saxophonist Steve Grossman, accordionist Richard Galliano, guitarist Bireli Lagrene, the Mingus Big Band and the best-selling recordings of the recently deceased Michel Petrucciani.