

'TRUE STORY'

Jean-Michel Pilc (Dreyfus Jazz)

'JEAN-MICHEL PILC: A PORTRAIT'

DVD film by John McCormick (Living Jazz Archive)

Pianist Jean-Michel Pilc is capable of creating haunting solo piano improvisations and offering striking versions of jazz standards. "True Story," his new album, and "Jean-Michel Pilc: A Portrait," a DVD about him, show that clearly. The album features him, drummer Billy Hart and bassist Boris Kozlov playing songs mostly by Pilc. But there also are versions of "Try to Remember," "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "Relic," by Franz Schubert. All three of those are Pilc creations in their own right. "Try to Remember," for instance, drifts casually into its melody while "The Other Night" and "A Brief History of Sound" are contemplative beauties. The film shows that approach in various performance settings, such as his beautiful "The Other Side" and his interpretations of "St. James Infirmary" and "In a Sentimental Mood." In between the music, though, Pilc talks with colleagues and in interviews about his musical philosophy. He talks about trying to create music by hearing it almost as a listener and letting it flow. The amount of talk balances nicely with the music, setting an easy pace for the film.

— *Bob Karlovits*
