



Progressive Images Evolve From Cardinal Points and Beyond

By Paula Edelstein

Born in 1960 in Paris, self-taught, pianist Jean-Michel Pilc has played with some of the best American and European jazz musicians: Roy Haynes, Michael Brecker, Dave Liebman, Jean Toussaint, Rick Margitza, Martial Solal, Michel Portal, Daniel Humair, Marcus Miller, Kenny Garrett, Lenny White, Chris Potter, John Abercrombie, Lew Soloff and Richard Bona. He has also worked with Harry Belafonte, as his musical director and pianist.

Jean-Michel Pilc's engagement at the Jazz Bakery in Los Angeles, California presented dominant themes that connected nature, new musical directions, and jazz standards in a dynamic portrait of Pilc's pianistic integrity. Playing to a full house, his trio, which consisted of Thomas Bramerie on bass and Tony Moreno on drums, was focused and brilliant in their presentation of such great songs as "Fred's Walk," "South," "Bye Bye Blackbird," and "Cardinal Points." As the three figures burned through their collaborations, Pilc's musical visions were relayed through a number of techniques including powerful solos, the fusion of jazz with classical elements, right hand arpeggios and innovative whistling. Pilc also presented his audience with a brand new masterwork titled "Spring Suite." Its simpatico imagery was filled with beautiful melodies and lush harmonics that depicted a lovely landscape (among other places and events) exploding in an array of colors, textures and sounds. Pilc's singular effort with block chords and right hand arpeggios were simply mesmerizing. These dynamics proved successful in Pilc's arrangement and ultimately impacted the audience to the extent that you felt as if you were being presented with a dramatic soliloquy. What happened in that regard is that the audience ended up putting themselves in Pilc's place and figuring out through the imagery what he's attempting to say musically. The result: A totally captivating and intelligent meeting of the minds and musical passions.

Jean-Michel Pilc's set was highly imaginative, creative and inspired. Jean-Michel and his New Trio (with Mark Mondesir on drums) recently recorded live at the Iridium in New York City. The upcoming live album will be released on Dreyfus in 2005. Don't miss Jean Michel Pilc on tour. Visit his website at www.jmpilc.com for more information.