

Oded Tzur

My Prophet

Cyrano Almeida drums
ECM Records

Saxophonist Oded Tzur has that pure ECM saxophone tone and compositional style, and the trio of pianist Nitai Hershkovits, bassist Petros Klampanis, and drummer Cyrano Almeida pick it up from there. "Renata" has a nice flow, and "Last Bike Ride in Paris" is the band's absolute musical highlight from the set. This is a pretty sounding record with all the ruminating ECM air that we expect in the sound. Drummer Cyrano Almeida percolates and rumbles within the music, and has a nice drum and cymbal sound. Personally I just wish the "Last Bike Ride in Paris" was the conceptual starting point, instead of the climax, of the record.



things into his own hands and assemble this band. Choosing the music was the easy part. Playing the soulful music of Eddie Harris, Horace Silver, Cannonball Adderley, and Stanley Turrentine comes naturally for everyone in this band including drummer Otis Brown III. Brown plays the ensembles with perfection, check out "Filthy McNasty." He swings hard, as is heard in the soulful "Too Blue," and "Driftin'." And he can funk it up, as heard on "The Chicken" which found fame with James Brown's band The JB's. But it is Eddie Harris' "Mean Greens" with its swampy second line feel, and the tough tempo'd "Slow Drag" that are the absolute standout tracks. I hope the soul revue of Something Else! continues, we can always use a little more soul!



Amina Figarova & Matsiko World Orphan Choir

Suite for Africa

Rudy Royston drums
BA Records

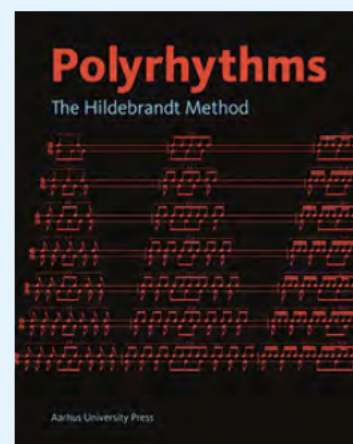
When a bandleader picks the right drummer for a recording project, she has set herself up for success. The right drummer can make or break a band. Rudy Royston was the right and perfect choice for pianist and composer Amina Figarova's new record, *Suite for Africa*. Royston pushes and prods without interfering (listen to "Faith is Her Name,") his round sound doesn't obscure the flutes or the voices of the choir, and his drumming approach lets the music blossom while always giving a nod to the African theme of the music. Figarova's vocal arrangement of "Forgotten Children" is simply chilling. This is an ambitious musical project written for a jazz sextet and a children's choir, and thanks to Figarova's arranging and guidance it works. Mission accomplished.



Polyrhythms: The Hildebrandt Method

David Hildebrandt
Aarhus University Press

While there have been many instructional books written on Polyrhythms, I don't think any of them has been as thorough as this book. In fact for some, this book might be too thorough, but that's a matter of opinion. While I have studied, respect, and have learned a great deal from past books and the teachings of Pete Magadini, Gary Chaffee, and Ari Hoenig, Hildebrandt takes the study to a much more scientific level. Don't be scared off by the intellectual talk or the 336 pages of text. While Hildebrandt addresses the mathematical relationships of polyrhythms, (how can you not?) He does not ignore the natural, physical, musical, and emotional aspects of polyrhythms. While this isn't a "polyrhythms in a day" or "polyrhythms for dummies" type of book, it is thorough, well presented, and is a very logically presented tome on the subject. It is a comprehensive presentation of the why, what, who, and how of polyrhythms. It details how to conceptualize, use, feel, and figure out, every polyrhythm you can think of (and many you haven't!) I can't wait to dig in and further my knowledge on this fascinating subject with the help of this book.



Something Else! Featuring Vincent Herring

Soul Jazz

Otis Brown III drums
Smoke Sessions

The musical collective Something Else! was created with the desire to put a little soul back into the jazz of the 2020s. Saxophonist Vincent Herring had been noticing a lack of soul in the classrooms of his students and he decided to take

