



eleanorbrietel, ROBERT LEVIN

A Note on Charlie Rhyner

1h ago  Charlie Rhyner, contemporary jazz, Dan Schnapp, Graciliano Zambonin, guitar

I've remarked elsewhere that given the absence of any dramatic upheavals for some sixty years now, jazz has ceased to be the consistently transforming art it once was. This doesn't mean, however, that jazz has stagnated. Hardly. A small but significant body of gifted young musicians have at once been drawing upon and extending the rich traditions that preceded them (specifically, in the case in point, the innovations of the late 50s and early 60s that cleared so many new pathways to explore). And they are making of the treasures they've inherited music that is elevated and solidly their own.

I'm speaking in appreciation of the guitarist and composer Charlie Rhyner's "The First Second," released in 2018. Rhyner is an exceptionally talented guitarist and composer who makes full use of his instrument's resources and, equipped with a fine musical intelligence, plays with subtlety, nuance and surprise. He also knows how to swing and is very good at choosing his sidemen as well. Mike Robinson, bass, Graciliano Zambonin, drums, Imraan Khahn, alto sax and Dan Schnapp, Fender Rhodes, are all standout musicians themselves. Their interplay—the sensitivity with which they complement one another—reflects a musicianship of the highest order.

An album that rewards repeated hearings, I would not hesitate to recommend "The First Second" as an exemplary, indeed quintessential, demonstration of contemporary jazz.

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