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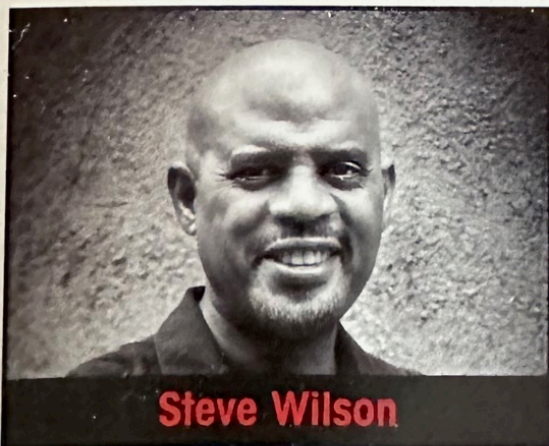
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Mezzrow

Page 10

Birdland Theater

Page 17



Dizzy's Club, Birdland Theater Page 21

Anyway Cafe Page 10

Where To Go & Who To See Since 1982

WINNING SPINS

By George Kanzler

TWO STRING PLAYERS, WILL Sellenraad, a guitarist, and Gabe Terracciano, a violinist, helm albums that adventurously embrace post-bop in a very contemporary way, both through their often-striking originals, and the unique tones and textures created by their ensembles.

Greene Street Vol. 1, from **Will Sellenraad** (Deko Music), expands its sonic palette electronically not only through the leader's electric guitar, but also with EFX, including loops, used on three tracks by bassist Rene Hart. Drummer Eric McPherson adds to the singular sounds of the CD with a kit that often favors metallic, echoey textures. Will is a versatile guitarist who can peel long, wafting single notes, as he does behind Rene's bass solo on Eric's "Future," or embellish a melody with thick, strummed chords, as on James Williams' catchy "Alter Ego." That piece is given a spacey frame, the tune wrapped in long intro and outro electronic warbling featuring EFX loops.

The band stretches out on most of the CD's six tracks, with only Will's ballad "Melancholy" clocking in under 4 minutes; the rest range 6½ to 9½ minutes each. The trio covers Wayne Shorter's "Deluge" in a spirited fashion at odds with the title's implications, Eric's jaunty rhythms accenting Will's and Rene's solos before he rides out the piece with his own statement. Another original from Will, "Little Girl," finds him repeating a climbing phrase over Eric's rolling beats, then alternating light and dark passages in his arresting solo. Rene's "Allegorical" closes things exotically, beginning with rattling martial drumming, electronic scrapes and EFX loops before it settles into a theme plucked by guitar and bass. The martial beats are subsumed by a Latin-tinged rhythm for solos by Will and Rene, before a loopy rubato coda.

On this album, Will, Rene and Eric reimagine the sound and contours of the traditional guitar-bass-drums trio into something fresh and new.

Gabe Terracciano makes his debut as a leader with *In Flight*, (Red Piano). A classically trained violinist who has focused on nonclassical genres, he has kept a foot in that world as a member of the

Turtle Island String Quartet since 2018. On *In Flight*, guitarist Adam Rogers, bassist Matt Pavolka and drummer Mark Ferber join Gabe; trumpeter Mike Rodriguez is on hand for two tracks, and alto saxophonist Dave Pietro plays on four of the CD's six pieces. Most of tunes—all written by Gabe—are suite-like or multi-themed.

Gabe has a rich, thick sound on violin, often playing across strings for chordal, rather than single note, effects. He favors the darker, lower registers of his instrument, suggesting jazz tenor sax more than trumpet or guitar. There is an expressive lyricism in his ballad playing, especially on his captivating "When I'm in Your Arms Once More," aptly described as a "song without words," wherein his violin sings rapturously. The hornless quartet delivers that track and "Way Off," another ballad that morphs into swing. Dave and Mike add their horns on "In Flight" and "Alfie's Lullaby." The former begins as a long, floating semi-rubato theme from guitar and violin that opens up to a 15/8 clave beat for an Afro-Latin round of solos. Oliver Nelson's "Alfie's Theme" and Victor Young's "Lullaby of the Leaves" are the inspiration for the latter, Gabe employing violin, sax and trumpet like a big band soli section. His formidable outing kicks off a round of swinging from the horns trading fours, plus contributions from Adam and Matt. "Pundit," written "as a reflection of political pundits who change their opinions and narratives on a dime," unleashes Gabe's skittering upper register as he prances over patty-caking rhythms from Mark with Adam and Matt. Gabe and Dave exchange solos in shifting tempos that rise to a cymbal crashing climax. Featuring Dave, "Case in Point" is a funky groove tune with a violin-guitar-sax front line, and a change of pace solo from Gabe that begins with a chorus of just violin and bass.

Will Sellenraad's trio, with Eric McPherson on drums and Ben Street on bass, is at Mezzrow, March 15. **Gabe Terracciano** leads a trio, with Josh Dunn on guitar and Ian Hutchison on bass, at Anyway Cafe in the East Village March 16, and appears with Arthur Vint & Associates at Barbès March 26.