

BAPTISTE TROTIGNON - *SUITE...*



ABOUT "SUITE..."

After "Share", recorded with a top-level international group – Tom Harrell, Mark Turner, Matt Penman, Otis Brown III, Eric Harland – in New York in June 2008, Baptiste Trotignon is back with "Suite ...", an ambitious project recorded on tour last summer with almost the same team (Jeremy Pelt replaces Tom Harrell). The result is a very fine "Suite" for quintet, lasting about fifty minutes and in five parts, sometimes with and sometimes without interludes.

Working together in the studio, then in concert during their world tour, the group has grown even stronger and more cohesive; inventiveness and improvisation play an important part in this second album. With raw energy – yet an energy that is also subtle, refined and precise – the piece entitled Suite, recorded at Charlie Wright's in London, represents the quintessence of the style the group has gradually worked out, giving Trotignon's writing magnificent developments that make it into a small masterpiece of contemporary jazz, stylistically rooted in the foundations of that music (Part 1, Part 3) but at the same time nourished by other colours of which Trotignon is fond: Brazilian chorinho (Part 4), pop tunes (Part 5), or more European classical influences (Prologue, Interlude 1).

After Suite, which is almost orchestral in form, come two shorter pieces. Flow (recorded in the studio at the same time as the first album, "Share") opens with a splendid unaccompanied solo from Mark Turner, played as only he knows how, then just flows intensely for about ten minutes; the audience is completely won over, and beside itself with joy. After the density of the past hour of music, the CD ends on a lighter note with the ballad I fall in love too easily (recorded in Paris), a peaceful evocation of original swing and blues.

This album shows the great talents of this new virtuoso group and its excellent composer and leader, Baptiste Trotignon (this is his eighth recording as leader).

"Suite" is a truly fine follow-up!