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**AKI TAKASE / DANIEL ERDMANN ~ ISN`T IT ROMANTIC?**

**BMC 301 (Barcode: 5998309303012) ~ JAPAN ~ Jazz**

**Recorded: 2020 Released: 2021**

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This is an album by the duo comprising of Japanese Jazz pianist / composer [Aki Takase](#) and German saxophonist / composer [Daniel Erdmann](#). The album presents thirteen tracks, six each composed by Takase and Erdmann and one standard.

The music is an exquisite example of the “Art of the Duo” idiom, crafted and executed by highly experienced Jazz musicians. Takase, who has lived in Berlin since 1988, has become an integral part of the European Jazz scene and her numerous recordings make her one of the most important modern Jazz figures on the contemporary scene. Erdmann, who is twenty-five years younger, has also already established a name for himself on the European Jazz scene. Both seem feel a strong affinity towards duo recordings.

As the title suggests, the music, although completely modern, has a certain romantic tinge to it, which is expressed in the highly melodic motifs, which underlay the duo performances. As a result, the complex improvisations and intricate dialog between the two musicians stays somewhat within Jazz tradition and only partially spills over into Avant-Garde, creating a wonderfully balanced amalgam of the two, which is accessible to a large audience of Jazz listeners.

Both musicians emerge as excellent songweavers, in addition to their superb performing skills, which are pure joy to listen to. The music flows wonderfully from one composition to the next, creating a coherent continuity and manages to keep the listener on his toes, always anticipating the next move. The entire album is a masterpiece of inventiveness and superb telepathic conversation between the two musicians, which truly exemplifies the Jazz duo concept at its best.

I have closely followed Takase’s career since the very early days and she definitely is an artist that never disappoints, consistently producing superb music. The long list of her albums recorded over the years is a Jazz treasure

chest.

Overall, this is an excellent duo album, which although can be demanding at times, manages beautifully to create a romantic feeling, as expressed by modern Jazz at its best. It is full of great performances and unexpected musical vistas, which are truly unique.

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