

Mihály Borbély Quartet

Be By Me Tonight (BMC)

Europe has always made major contributions to the jazz world. Many artists' names are not well-known here, but albums like this one will certainly help.

Hungarian saxophonist and bass clarinetist Mihály Borbély's new release shows a quartet at a high level of interactive understanding. They can be fairly laid-back (*Be By Me Tonight*), or driving and rhythmic (*Little Bird in the Lee*). At times their music incorporates elements of Hungarian folk music, and even hints of Liszt and Bartók, but the result is uniquely theirs. Pianist Áron Tálás is a powerful partner to Borbély's saxophone, and his solos are stellar (check *Kosztka*).

The tunes are all originals, written mainly by Borbély or with another band member. They show compositional variety and intelligent and personal references. At times the folk tradition is appropriately evident and offers a somewhat different sound than many North American bands.

An earlier album by the quartet (*Hungarian Jazz Rhapsody*) received wide acclaim and several well-deserved awards. This one should cement its growing reputation. ★★★★★

Winnipeg Free Press archives

May 5, 2016

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