



Jazz Weekly: Jay T. Vonada - United

by George W. Harris • November 22, 2018

Trombonist Jay Vonada leads a quartet with Kirk Reese/p, Bob Hart/b and Kevin Lowe for a swinging mix of originals and jazz standards. Vonada has a warm and rich tone, glowing on the bluesy gospel'd "Inspired" and swinging easy on "Midnight Waltz" while cozy by the fireplace on a breathy "Darn That Dream." Lowe's cymbals caress Reese's piano on a romantic "Serenity" and the team saunters for Vonada's use of the plunger for "Summer Daze." Some hip Latin grooves are served by Reese on the Afro Cuban "Sisaroo" and the team hits hard for the hard bopper "United." Vonada slides home safely with this one.

CD Hot List: Jay T. Vonada - United

If there's one thing the world definitely needs more of, it's trombone-led jazz albums. Pennsylvania-based trombonist and composer Jay T. Vonada steps up to make his contribution on this very fine album of standards and originals, on which he is accompanied by the trio of pianist Kirk Reese, bassist Bob Hart and drummer Kevin Lowe. Vonada has a sweet, burnished tone and a deep love of melody, both of which are in ample evidence here — as is his love of bossa nova rhythms. And I confess that I'm completely charmed by the fact that the liner notes (in which he is, of course, profusely praised) were written by his wife. Strongly recommended.

Midwest Record: Jay T. Vonada - United

I don't think you've heard so much great Pennsylvania jazz since Omnisound was working Delaware Water Gap. A bunch of high octane pros get together to just plain kill it on a bunch of originals. I know you've heard of walking bass lines, but this cat plays walking trombone lines. Straight up, straight ahead, this is well played welcoming jazz that'll bring more into the tent than it intimidates and make a bunch of fans for life. Hot stuff throughout.