

Kris Davis - Capricorn Climber (2013)

Written by bluesever

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1 Too Tinkerbell 2 Pass The Magic Hat 3 Trevor's Luffa Complex 4 Capricorn Climber 5 Bottom Of A Well 6 Big Band Ball 7 Pi Is Irrational 8 Dreamers In A Daze 9 Too Tinkerbell Coda
Double Bass – Trevor Dunn Drums, Glockenspiel – Tom Rainey Piano, Producer – Kris Davis Saxophone – Ingrid Laubrock Viola – Mat Maneri

Relocating from her native Canada to New York City, pianist Kris Davis has infused her imposing talents into New York City's unconventional, downtown-like scene. She once again aligns her compositional and improvisation expertise with like-minded artists, who frequently transition the jazz idiom into a boundless vista. Hence, the album projects a topsy-turvy and rather oscillating aura, featuring the musicians' use of counterpoint, space, and emphatic exchanges. They mix it up, while also stretching themes to the hilt amid several introspective interludes that intimate a time warp of sorts.

"Big Band Ball" commences as a spooky foray, perhaps hinting at encounters from ungodly influences. Here, Davis locks in with violaist Mat Maneri and bassist Trevor Dunn's rhythmic plucking that conjures emotive responses and opens the floodgates for drummer Tom Rainey's lyrical rim-shots and asymmetrical tom hits. Imagery of a revolving panorama comes to fruition, heightened by saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock's yearning lines via a loose groove, implanted with a multipart structural component. With snappy backbeats and Davis' animated voicings, the band merges a whimsical scenario with exploratory dialogues.

Davis' significant compositional skills are evident throughout. Moreover, she leaves quite a bit of room for invention, yet sustains a semi-structured game plan that recurrently shuns the norm, even when discussing the freer realm of jazz. ---Glenn Astarita, allaboutjazz.com

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