Piotr Lemańczyk - Follow the Soul (2003)

1 Virga 6’06 2 Shy king of the village 7’15 3 Take 74 6’28 4 You don’t know what love is 10’14 5 White lake 7’09 6 My little M. 7’24 7 Blues for Aga 6’03 Janusz Muniak – tenor saxophone Przemek Dyakowski – tenor saxophone Wojciech Staroniewicz – tenor saxophone Maciej Sikała – tenor saxophone Dariusz Herbasz – tenor saxophone Maciej Grzywacz – guitar Dominik Bukowski – vibraphone Piotr Lemańczyk – double bass Tomasz Sowiński – drums

This is the debut album as a leader by Polish Jazz bassist / composer Piotr Lemanczyk. It was recorded by several different lineups, mostly quartets, with the following participants: saxophonists Janusz Muniak, Przemek Dyakowski, Wojciech Staroniewicz, Maciej Sikala and Dariusz Herbosz, guitarist Maciej Grzywacz, vibraphonist Dominik Bukowski and drummer Tomasz Sowinski. Of the seven tracks on the album, six are original compositions by Lemanczyk and one is a standard.

The music is kept well within the modern Jazz mainstream, but the excellent compositions and performances create a superb piece of Jazz music, which should satisfy every sensitive listener. The use of the vibraphone instead of the usual piano gives the entire recording a “cool” ambience, which suits the music perfectly. The leader gets several solo spots, which emphasize his beautiful tone and sensitivity, rather than needless pyrotechnics.

As usual with Polish Jazz albums, the music is the center of the attention, in spite of the truly excellent playing, which is beyond reproach from start to finish. The melodic content and the rhythmic structures are simply incredible and a source of real joy.

Overall this album is a perfect example of what mainstream Jazz is all about and should be greatly enjoyed by any Jazz connoisseur anywhere in the world. Highly recommended! --- allegrorecords.com

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