

Review [Pete Robbins]

liner notes don't need to have anything to do with the record. as a matter of fact, it's more fun if they don't. they can say anything you want. but pete wants me to talk about him, so that's what i'll do.

i think pete plays his best music by himself. his solo playing is interesting enough that he doesn't suffer from the usual jabbering-at-the-mouth, like the player who can't play compositionally. pete's improvisation with a rhythm section, too, is strong and unique. he composes as he goes, using all the aesthetics of good composition: substantive ideas and development, freshness and control. on this record he's trying to do two things at once. compose, and improvise. that duality, though, is easy and comfortable for him.

pete can become a force. a real force. he's confident enough not to do what others might tell him. this is going to be the first in a series of records he will make. just keep in mind, i told him, record everything, the tapes are turning.

Paul Bley