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Smoke Jazz & Supper Club

Page 10



**Orrin Evans**

(Le) Poisson Rouge

Page 17



**Terri Lyne Carrington**



**Romero Lubambo**

Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola*

Page 21



**Pat Bianchi**

Jazz Standard

Page 10



After the big band era, some of the cravings for an orchestral sound in jazz were assuaged by the rise of the Hammond B3 organ in the post-bop, hard bop years. Smaller, often neighborhood clubs, could fill the room with a B3 trio, the big keyboard emulating the depth and sonorities of a much bigger ensemble. Meanwhile, big bands never went away, many flourishing as once-a-week or once-a-month attractions at venues that usually featured B3 combos. Many of these "big bands" were pared down orchestras, nonets or tentets that functioned as mini-big bands. This *Winning Spins* features an innovative B3 organ player in mostly trio settings that emphasize the orchestral possibilities of the instrument, and a slimmed-down-to-nonet big band that plays regularly at Philadelphia clubs.

*In the Moment*, **Pat Bianchi** (Savant, 2018), is anchored by Pat's working trio of the leader's organ, Paul Bollenback's guitar and Byron Landham's drums. Paul is subbed by Peter Bernstein and Pat Martino on one track each, while Carmen Intorre, Jr. takes over the drum chair on four tracks. Joe Locke's vibes replace guitar on three tracks, and the late Kevin Mahogany sings with organ and drums on another.

Pat and Paul create a panoramic, multilayered sonic palette with the B3 and electric, device-laden guitar. And they venture way beyond the get down, boogaloo and deep groove music associated with the "chicken shack" school of B3 music. That exploration pervades the record, nowhere more so than on the Gil Evans-Miles Davis "Time of the Barracudas"—titled "Barracudas (General Assembly)"—the album's longest cut: a spacey, electronics spiked track that has a psychedelic late 1960s-early 1970s vibe. The two also romp through a surprisingly fast, Byron's sticks-driven version of Willie Nelson's ballad "Crazy," create some bluesy unison lines on Pat's "No Expectations" and give a nod to soul jazz on Stevie Wonder's "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing." The three tracks with Joe's vibes joining Pat's B3 and Carmen's drums tackle repertoire rarely essayed by organs. Chick Corea's gnarly "Humpty Dumpty" introduces the unison chords and tight mass sound that marks the B3-vibes marriage. It returns on the closing two numbers, a spaced-out take on Wayne Shorter's "Fall" and a bright, jaunty run through Thelonious Monk's "Four in One." Pat Martino, in whose band Pat plays, guests on "Mr. PM," written by the leader. Peter is on board for a soulful ballad, "Blue Gardenia," and Kevin brings a Johnny Hartman vibe to Billy Eckstine's "I Just Want to Talk About You," in an arrangement that accentuates the orchestral tones of Pat's B3.