



All of them are brilliant players, and together they deliver an album that delivers a vibe, or at least to create a place where two minds can unite and become one, in whatever way you want that to be. One can hear a wide range of influences, from Tony Williams to Roy Haynes, Herbie Hancock to Dave Brubeck, Dave Holland to Jimmy Garrison, and all of it sounds great together.

~John Book, Music For America

Mebane is the group's leader/composer, watching over her group with loose reins, allowing them to venture out and experiment within the confines of the classic jazz trio. Bassist Justin Hellman and keyboardist Simon Rochester skillfully play their way through the tunes, interacting with Mebane beautifully throughout the album. The group is tight, and it is obvious that they have found the true spirit of jazz in their midst.

~Mish Mash Reviews



TANGRIA JAZZ GROUP

Sheryl Mebane - Composer, Drummer and Leader

Tangria Jazz Group is Tangria's self-titled third CD. This release is a journey through straight ahead jazz, world-infused jazz and fusion-influenced jazz. The multifaceted CD features seven selections, including originals and uniquely arranged standards, which capture each player's individual style and impressive talent.

Tangria's cornerstone as a unit is their ability to convey each cut through the use of dynamics, intricate inner-voicings and interactions as a cohesive, balanced ensemble. Their influences range from Ellington to Jobim, from Miles Davis to Joe Henderson.

The album opens with an introduction to "Nature Boy," which moves from a Latin groove to a ballad. The group easily transitions between the two textures, creating a poignant mood that gives "Nature Boy" a unique stamp. The group's signature sound of building each song from the most sensitive beginning to the meat and potatoes of the storyline is revisited throughout this self-titled release.

"Impressions," a halfway point on the album, explodes with raw energy from the first notes. The intense focus of the group truly shines on this track, highlighting another side of Tangria. The group is locked and on target. You can feel the energy pop off the track.

"Teach Yourself to Live Elsewhere" travels along the bluesy side of the tracks with a 6/8 feel coupled with catchy rhythms. Eloquent musical story lines traverse this Mebane original. You'll find your feet tapping.

Solos on tunes such as "Isotope" showcase Simon Rochester, who creates a unique sound by exploring the piano tapestry on a Fender Rhodes. He exhibits dexterity and textural strength within this cut. Simon draws upon the lush and soulful sounds of his instrument and is influenced by his predecessors Herbie Hancock and Bill Evans.

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TANGRIA JAZZ GROUP

The Tangria Jazz Group consists of young, energetic, imaginative musicians whose work deserves to be heard.
~Bill Donaldson, Cadence Mag.

Set of forward looking jazz. Rochester uses a nice sensitivity on the keys, reminiscent at times of Keith Jarrett and at times of early Herbie Hancock. Excellent bass is provided courtesy of Justin Hellmann. All percussion comes courtesy of Sheryl Mebane, an entirely capable anchor as well as a very good composer. The trio performs excellently throughout the course of the album, and if this one is any indication, there should be some great things to come in the future.

~Adam Greenberg, AMG

Entertaining session of some down right hard straight jazz served in a creative and engaging fashion by a terrific threesome.

~Ed Blanco, Ejazz News



The intensity and explosiveness of Tony Williams and the delicateness of Billy Higgins are apparent in drummer Sheryl Mebane's playing, especially in her swinging and grooving on "Black Nile," and on the Mebane original "Bamako Love Walk," which features Sheryl and Simon on African percussion, enriching and deepening the complex flavoring of the CD. Mebane is a seasoned and emotive player who creates a voice of her own on the skins of multiple drums. The self-titled CD takes you on a cohesively blended journey through sounds from distant and familiar places. Simon, Justin and Sheryl exemplify their strength as a working ensemble by uniting styles from across the globe under one sonic umbrella.

The melodic and soulful contributions of bassist Justin Hellman beam on each track, cohesively melding the group into a singular unit that conveys each of their personal expressions and a fresh group identity.

Sheryl's commitment to greener approaches is evident in the packaging of Tangria's latest release, *Tangria Jazz Group*. The eco-wallet provides a lightweight package and generates little waste, which further exemplifies Mebane's commitment to eco-awareness.

Mebane's debut jazz novel *Lady Bird* focuses on three women and their interaction with music. Additionally, Mebane is actively involved in research in environmental chemistry education and action. See www.geocities.com/sherylmebane for in-depth information.

Pianist Simon Rochester is a physics researcher at UC Berkeley and Justin Hellman has a bachelor's degree in music from UC Berkeley. Tangria is a group that creates beautiful, charismatic and alluring music with a sense of conscientiousness to life, environment and open-minded expressiveness. It shows in their presentation and their music. Take a taste of Tangria; it will leave you wanting another sip.

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