

Bartłomiej Brat Oleś, Kenny Werner, Marcin Oleś - Shadows (2006)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)

Tuesday, 09 March 2021 13:43 - Last Updated Tuesday, 09 March 2021 14:41

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1 *Discovery* 2 *White Tree* 3 *Good News* 4 *Green Water* 5 *Shadows* 6 *Shape & Shade*
7 *Blanka Centauri + It's Only A Dream* Bartłomiej 'Brat' Oleś – drums Kenny Werner –
piano Marcin Oleś - double bass

According to psychologist Carl Jung, certain aspects of the personality are rarely acknowledged by the conscious mind, but make themselves known symbolically through dreams. One such manifestation, the Shadow, represents attributes that are instinctive and have been repressed. Recognizing the Shadow's presence may help bridge the gap between the Ego and the Self, leading to a greater awareness of one's creative impulses.

Pianist Kenny Werner, whose influential book 'Effortless Mastery' is widely used as a textbook in music pedagogy, has much to add about breaking down the barriers of artistic expression. He believes that an education is a necessary evil that provides the rudiments of technique but also restricts individuality. Mastery offers various methods to eliminate those restrictions, allowing the artist to unmask the secret forces that drive spontaneous creation.

There are no apparent creative obstructions as Werner joins Polish drummer Bartłomiej "Brat" Oles on the latter's recording *Shadows*, which also features Brat's brother Marcin on bass. Having always wanted to attempt a piano trio album, Brat could not have arranged for a more archetypal proponent of the format than Werner, for whom the trio has long been the group setting of choice.

Brat wrote all of the compositions excluding Marcin's "Green Water," which appeared previously on the bassist's own quartet recording *Walk Songs* and already sounds like a standard. A fine

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composer and highly skilled drummer, Brat nevertheless refuses to showboat: Shadows is arguably a platform for Werner, with the Oles brothers providing a typically solid foundation.

This is not to suggest that Werner, a seasoned player who offsets his boundless originality with tasteful restraint, eclipses his bandmates in any way. Few bass players strive for the kind of lyricism with which Marcin performs his solos, and Brat's exquisitely nuanced drumming makes hearing the disc through headphones a must.

A sense of balance between light and dark is maintained throughout the recording; for example, "Good News" navigates a bumpy emotional terrain, but its lively and subdued sections are held together by a sly thematic unity. Whenever the need arises, the group swings something fierce, so it's regrettable that the disc mellows a bit too early; however, this is more a result of track sequencing than of content.

The title of the closing track, "It's Only a Dream," is somewhat ironic given the importance that dreams have to artistic expression; witness surrealism, or virtually the entire medium of cinema. If dreams are where the imagination is free to roam, unbound by the neuroses of the conscious mind, then Shadows is, indeed, only a dream. --Brad Glanden, allaboutjazz.com

O poprzedniej płycie braci Olesiów „Walk songs” nagranej w kwartecie z Simonem Nabatovem i Chrisem Speedem Michał Palkaj w Diapazonie napisał (...) Choć Bracia grają już ze sobą przez dłuższy czas to dwóch nowych muzyków pozwoliło im popatrzeć na siebie jak poprzez wyszlifowany diament mający wiele płaszczyzn. Inny pryzmat padania światła! Inny widok. To wzbudziło nowe inspiracje wobec siebie i, choć niektórzy się nie zgodzą, ten materiał to zupełnie coś nowego. (...).

Późną jesienią ubiegłego roku, na początku gwiazdkowego szaleństwa uważni fani jazzu mogli uczestniczyć w kilku wyjątkowych koncertach, na zaproszenie braci Olesiów do Polski

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przyjechał Kenny Warner, jeden z wyżej cenionych pianistów jazzowych (można go usłyszeć na najnowszej płycie z wytwórni Blue Note: Nigel Kennedy „Blue Note Sessions”, gdzie występuje wraz z innymi tuzami jazzu Joe Lovano, Ronem Carterem i Jackiem DeJohnette). Były t

o niezapomniane wieczory, pełne niewymuszonej wirtuozerii, ogromnej muzykalności członków zespołu i wielkiej kultury muzycznej.

Konsekwencją koncertów była sesja nagraniowa w studio, podczas której trio Oleś / Werner / Oleś nagrało osiem jazzowo spełnionych kompozycji. ---wsm.serpent.pl

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