

Echoes Of Swing - Blue Pepper (2013)

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01. *Blue Pepper* 02. *Azzurro* 03. *Blue Prelude* 04. *La Paloma Azul* 05. *Blue & Naughty* 06. *Blue Moon* 07. *Black Stick Blues* 08. *Blue River* 09. *Out Of The Blue* 10. *Aoi Sanmyaku (Blue Mountain Range)* 11. *The Smurf* 12. *Blue Gardenia* 13. *The Blue Medicine / Radovan's Remedy* 14. *Wild Cat Blues* 15. *Azure* Colin T. Dawson - trumpet, vocals on 3, 8 & 12
Chris Hopkins - alto sax Bernd Lhotzky - piano, celesta on 9 Oliver Mewes - drums

It's hard to believe at first that there are only four instruments here. The arrangements are so ingenious, and the playing so nimble, that it could be at least twice that number. But listen closely and you will discover just a quartet of trumpet, alto saxophone, piano and drums – with absolutely no electronic tricks. The style is sophisticated small-band swing, the material a judicious mixture of originals and swing-era numbers and there is not a hint of whiskey nostalgia in any of it. It's about time this idiom received some fresh attention and here's the perfect curtain-raiser. --- theguardian.com

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