Written by bluesever Sunday, 19 August 2018 13:44 -

## Tomasz Stanko - Almost Green (1979)



A1 New Song 10:39 A2 From Greenhills 3:36 A3 Slowly By 5:27 B1 When On Earth 10:20 B2 Almost Green 3:42 B3 Megaira 3:48 Double Bass – Palle Danielsson Drums, Producer – Edward Vesala Tenor Saxophone – Tomasz Szukalski Trumpet – Tomasz Stanko

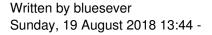
"Almost Green" is fourth and last record by great Stanko Quartet with Vesala and Szukalski, this time with wonderful dwarf Palle Danielsson on bass. Released by Finnish label Leo Records in 1979, this album was preceded by "TWET" (Muza 1974), "Balladyna" (ECM 1976) and "Live at Remont" (Helicon 1978), each with different bassist. But always the rhythm section sounded pretty heavy and whole quartet freshly and recognizably. Maybe it is wishful thinking from my side, but I often thought when listening to "Balladyna" that there are some similarities with great Elton Dean Quintet's "Boundaries", and I got that feeling again with "Live at Remont" and "Almost Green", which were completely new to me during last weeks...

---inconstantsol.blogspot.com

Tomasz Stańko, 76, July 26th of lung cancer in Warsaw. One of the biggest names in Polish jazz, he composed smooth lyrical works known for their emotional enchantment and was part of the free jazz movement. He first heard jazz through Voice of America radio and in 1958 attended a Dave Brubeck concert during Brubeck's famous State Department tour of Poland, cementing his commitment to the music.

After playing with notables of the Polish jazz scene in the 60s and 70s he began to travel

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broadly in the 1980's, recording an album in the Taj Mahal and working with top jazz musicians the world over. His star continued to rise through the 2000's. He maintained an active tour schedule and was commissioned for high profile public works.

He spent time living in New York City where he could be regularly heard. In his last decade, he experimented with poetry based work. He released over twenty albums as a leader, notably "Almost Green" in 1979. ---syncopatedtimes.com

Album rozpoczyna się grą napięć między free-jazzową sekcją a podniosłymi, trochę Colemanowskimi motywami trąbki i saksofonu, kulminującymi na filmową nutę (mowa tu o filmach z gatunku polski dreszczowiec obyczajowy), a później wchodzi na kolejne piętra impresji i improwizacji, do których w żaden sposób nie pasuje twarz Piotra Machalicy. Nie ma co ukrywać, że jest to pozycja trudna, dla najwytrwalszych Stańkomaniaków, a zapewne nawet oni mogli poczuć, że ten skład odbył już swój ostatni lot i "trzeba z żywymi naprzód iść". ---Michał Zagroba, porcys.com

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