Written by bluesever Tuesday, 01 November 2016 14:56 -

Toots Thielemans - Only Trust Your Heart (1988)



01. Speak No Evil (Wayne Shorter) (5:18) 02. Estate (Bruno Brighetti, Bruno Martino) (4:56) 03. Three And One (Thad Jones) (5:38) 04. Rain Waltz (Fred Hersch) (5:52) 05. All Of You (Cole Porter) (4:30) 06. The Dragon (Toots Thielemans) (5:00) 07. Only Trust Your Heart (Benny Carter, Sammy Cahn) (5:22) 08. Sophisticated Lady (Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, Mitchell Parish) (5:06) 09. Hello, Young Lovers (Oscar Hammerstein II, Richard Rodgers) (5:56) 10. Sarabande (Fred Hersch) (5:02) 11. Little Rootie Tootie (Thelonious Monk) (5:08) 12. We'll Be Together Again (Carl Fischer, Frankie Laine) (3:41) Toots Thielmans - harmonica; Fred Hersch - piano; Marc Johnson - bass (tracks: 1, 9); Harvie Swartz - bass (tracks: 2 to 8, 10 to 12); Joey Baron - drums.

Although the liner notes claim that this Concord release was Toots Thielemans' first recording as a leader in more than a dozen years, somehow the harmonica great's 14 European dates (not to mention sets released by Stash and Pablo) were overlooked. In any case, this is a pretty definitive session by the harmonica virtuoso who is joined by pianist Fred Hersch, either Marc Johnson or Harvie Swartz on bass, and drummer Joey Baron. The material is filled with challenging and generally underplayed standards (including Wayne Shorter's "Speak No Evil," Thad Jones' "Three and One," Benny Carter's lyrical "Only Trust Your Heart," and Thelonious Monk's "Little Rootie Tootie"), plus two fine Hersch originals. Ranging from hard bop to Brazilian music and post-bop, this is a consistently enjoyable and highly recommended outing. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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