

Jazz Special recommends

STEEN RASMUSSEN FEAT. JOSEFINE CRONHOLM
AMANHÃ I MORRON TOMORROW

More than welcome to this wildly rousing album, fronted by Steen Rasmussen and Josefine Cronholm, with a solid group of excellent musicians behind them.

What goes for nine of the album's twelve songs, we can feel the full extent of a musical style's distant and multicolored provinces that nevertheless adjacent to your own backyard.

A Brazil that hits the heart and stomach, a storm of pictures flowing all over you, first with the marshy Jorge Ben samba "*Mas Que Nada*", followed by Jobim's "*Triste*", Ary Barroso's classic "*Na Baixa do Sapateiro*", to the depth-searching "*Useless landscape*", all together in Cronholm's wonderful universe. She sings enchantingly straightforward, suddenly distorting the melody, paints with playful twittering, disturbing squiggles, she does what fits her, like she was born to sing these songs. All is delivered optimally; Rasmussen has never sounded this great on the piano and keyboards, following all guidelines of the Brazilian art. From Joao Donato and beyond, Wessberg's trombone is more than setting the mood in Bruno Martino's "*Estate*" (a tribute to Chet Baker and João Gilberto), and delivers an excellent solo performance in "*Zanzibar*". Jonas Krag provides sweet guitar work in "*Amanhã*" – and then there's some of the best I've heard in a long time from drummer Jonas Johansen. The percussionists are no less than Robertinho Silva, Jacob Andersen and Afonso Correa, so everything is swinging with grace. There's place for tragic depths, an hypnotic sensualism. Healthy laughter in melodic material, better than most of what I've heard in years.