



because of her

JPG | The Jack Pantazis Group



reviews

"I've had the great pleasure of working with Jack Pantazis over many years, often in my own bands. I often tell young aspiring musicians that to employable, you need to have a strong technique, be able to read almost anything put in front of you, have a strong understanding of styles, be able to add your own creative approach when required, have a strong work ethic, be reliable, communicative and especially, be a person that people want to work with.

I think Jack epitomises all those qualities in a musician. He is always willing to jump in and bring something special to the music and I'm lucky to have Jack as a close friend and colleague.

The album is gorgeous mix of various styles that reflect Jack's influences as a guitarist. We hear everything from his delicate acoustic playing to an almost Grunge meets Jazz approach. In this Piano-less quartet setting, Jack does a great job of outlining the harmonic message of the tunes while delivering beautiful melodic lines.

- Daryl McKenzie

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daryl_McKenzie

Ably supported by Tony Hicks, who's strong soloing voice brings several colours to the ensemble via Flute, Soprano Sax and Tenor Sax, Gerry Pantazis who's sublime brush work brings a lovely contrast to the heavier and exciting sticks playing and Adam Spiegl who supports beautifully throughout the whole album. Phil Binotto adds another layer of skilful percussion to the mix on track 1. A great offering all round."

"...Jack does a great job of outlining the harmonic message of the tunes while delivering beautiful melodic lines."

reviews

"Jack Pantazis has created nine beautifully constructed tracks with a complex range of musical textures which both demonstrate his complete control of the guitar as well as give a musical insight into the experiences that led to the creation of the album.

Each track is a contrast from the last but at the same time compliments each other due to the compositional ability of Pantazis and the extreme level of musicianship on offer by his band. It is easy to hear influences of other guitarists such as Pat Metheny and Mike Stern as well as musicians such as Michael Brecker and Miles Davis, however one can easily distinguish Pantazis' unique voice showing how he has one foot in tradition and the other in innovation.

Joining Pantazis is a star studded list of Australian musicians who help carry the beautiful compositions to their maximum potential.

With so much on offer throughout the album I would highly recommend adding this one to your collection no matter what your taste as there is something on offer for everyone."

- Toshi Clinch

<https://www.toshiclinchproductions.com/about>

"...one can easily distinguish Pantazis' unique voice showing how he has one foot in tradition and the other in innovation."

reviews

"More than six decades ago, jazz pioneer Ornette Coleman released an album called *Beauty Is A Rare Thing*. So many years later, in music it's still true. That's why the performances on Jack Pantazis' new CD are so welcome in these turbulent times.

A composer, educator and dazzling guitarist, Jack Pantazis has been contributing mightily to the Melbourne jazz scene for a long time, with two previous CDs under his own name to show for it. This third release might just be the best.

It's a varied offering with essentially three themes among the all-originals line-up. Most noteworthy are the shimmering, lovely guitar explorations that open the CD. "Lullaby" has hints of Bach and some stellar bass work by Adam Speigl spurs you to dream of orchid gardens and vivid coral reefs, and "Because of Her" is a tender ballad in the old song-writing style that relies on luscious chord changes to convey its message of love and beauty.

Superbly executed, "The Truth" is impressionism set to music, solo guitar to admire Monet by.

"..."Because of Her" is a tender ballad in the old song-writing style that relies on luscious chord-changes to convey its message of love and beauty."

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For unrepentant pure jazz lovers like me, there's plenty more to delight. With its lively tropical beat, "The Days We Left Behind" spotlights Jack's marvellously assured guitar and recalls a luminous Grant Green album called The Latin Bit; What Again? with its strong melody and irresistible swing is classic bop nouveau, perhaps the album's brightest gem.

It reminds us of Jack's first album *What?*, which still gets played a lot on good radio jazz shows.

Those who enjoy a contemporary sound will welcome "Girl With a Glock" and "Uncle Con" the latter with an ECM sound that can seem eerie at times.

The utterly delightful "When A Rose" ends the CD - It's an exceptionally lovely acoustic guitar and sax/folk song, full of sweetness and yearning. The much-admired veteran saxophonist Tony Hicks adopts a pure, almost classical tone and it works to perfection.

Jack has created music of rare beauty here, just what we need in today's world."

- Steve Robertson

Steve Robertson is a long-time jazz writer and radio show host.

His current program is "Monday Night Jazz" in South Australia, which can be heard online at www.fleurieufm.org.au | 8pm, SA time.

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