

## New Issues

### RAPHAEL PANNIER QUARTET, FAUNA

FRENCH PARADOX 004

LONELY WOMAN/ MIDTOWN BLUES/ LULLABY/ MESSIAN: LE BAISER DE L'ENFANT JESUS/  
INTRO TO ESP/ ESP/ OUTRO TO ESP/ RAVEL FORLANE/ FAUNA/ CAPRICCIO DE RAPHAEL/  
MONKEY PUZZLE TREE/ FINAL DRUM SOLO 65:14

Raphael Pannier, d; Miguel Zenon, as; Aaron Goldberg, p; Francois Moutin, bass; Giorgi Mikadze p on Messian, Ravel and Monkey 21 August 2020, France

I really am anticipating this CD, from Ornette Coleman to Messian and Ravel with a drummer as leader and composer.

Lonely Woman starts off slowly, highlighting loneliness but then jumps up-tempo and cooks with a nice drum solo and comes back down with a lovely bass solo and back to the melody. Ornette would be proud. And Pannier's treatment of ESP is marvelous. His Intro and Outro really enhance Shorter's piece.

I have always liked the idea of improvising on classical pieces. After all, most classical composers were great improvisers. The classical pieces are beautifully done. The melodies are played as written and the improvisations stay true to the feel of the pieces. The quartet really works well together, everyone supporting everyone, propelled by Pannier's drums. As a drummer I am very critical of other drummers. Here I have found a drummer I can praise. His accompaniments are always appropriate and the last track is a solo framed by the quartet is very nicely done. And he gets an incredible sound out of his big tom tom.

Over all this is a really great recording. It stays in my collection and I look forward to more of this group

Bernie Koenig

