

Dominique Di Piazza Trio

Princess Sita

SUNNYSIDE 1199



DOMINIQUE DIPIAZZA *Trio* PRINCESS SITA

Some musicians with technique as jaw dropping and original as French bassist Dominique Di Piazza's leave you cold because they're all dexterity and no soul. Best known for his work with John McLaughlin and his trio with Biréli Lagrène and Dennis Chambers, Di Piazza balances chops and musicality as well as any bassist since Jaco Pastorius—one of his early models. His four-fingered plucking technique and use of pedal steel picks give his playing a well-articulated, rippling sound, and his inclusion of a high-C string on his five-string instrument allows him to get a distinctive ringing tone.

Brazilian guitarist Nelson Veras and drummer Manhu Roche are an ideal match for Di Piazza, providing light, dance-like accompaniment that moves with the same urgency that the bassist brings to many of his compositions. "Wake Up" has a fluid melody reminiscent of some of Pat Metheny's writing, and on "Dinello," Di Piazza holds himself in reserve, sprinting alongside Veras' lead before breaking out into a bass solo that is detailed and fast. Wisely, Di Piazza follows that with two restrained ballads, including a rich version of Joe Henderson's "Recordame," because at times his rococo fingerwork can seem like so much extra icing on a cake. "St. John" and "Après La Pluie" come closest to becoming mere confectations, their surfaces smooth enough to blunt the beauty of the playing.

—James Hale

Princess Sita: Nuages; Nemo; St. John; Wake Up; Princess Sita; Little Rose; Après La Pluie; Desillusion; Dinello; Mister PM; Recordame; Torrents D'Amour. (50:17)

Personnel: Dominique Di Piazza, bass; Nelson Veras, guitar; Manhu Roche, drums.

» Ordering info: sunnysiderecords.com