

## July 2016 Papatamus

A NOTE TO READERS: I cover a lot of items in this column and it is only a fraction of what crosses my desk. I choose to only write about things that I find of interest, usually that is due to quality of music but not always. You can contact me at [rdr@cadencebuilding.com](mailto:rdr@cadencebuilding.com). Mail received is subject to editing and may be included in the next column at my discretion. If you do not want your correspondence printed please let us know. Cheers, rdr.

NORBERT STEIN [ts], who has been recording under the banner of Pata Music (touch music?) since the late 1980s, has released **FRIENDS & DRAGONS** [Pata 23] an EP [19:40] with a small group [Nicola Hein-e.gtr, Joscha Oetz-b, Etienne Nillesen-perc] he calls Pata Messengers. The program of 4 Stein compositions gives a solid listen to the sound of Stein's grinding tenor work. The rhythm section, when not soloing, gives solid free-form electric backing. This is thoughtful music, unfortunate that it is so short.

After covering jazz for over 50 years, of all jazz instrumentalists it seems to me that tuba players as a group have a certain humor; they don't take themselves too seriously but they take their music and instrument very seriously. JIM SELF [tu] has gotten together a nonet of tuba friendly folks for what he calls the **TRICKY LIX LATIN JAZZ BAND** and the result is **!YO!** [Basset Hound Music 114-2]. This recording [12/1&3/15] features 3 of Francisco Torres' [tbn] compositions plus compositions by Clare Fischer, Nat Simon, Eddie Cano, and 2 from Self. There is a

very nice Curt Berg arrangement of “Poinciana”. Pleasant, understated with an occasional hint of Gil Evans. Soloists include: Ron Blake [tpt], Rob Hardt [ts] Joey De Leon [perc] and of course Self. [52:29].

SCOTT NEUMANN [drm] and TOM CHRISTENSEN [ts/ss] co-lead the group [Pete McCann-gtr, Phil Palombi-b] **SPIN CYCLE** [Sound Footing Records 888295 405874].

This is a hard hitting quartet that, based on the 10 originals [57:55] on the CD, like to jump (forte) right on the start of a composition as opposed to building to a crescendo. They do not open hard on every number but when they do it grabs the listeners attention. Christensen plays with a raspy tone on tenor while on soprano he plays with little vibrato and Neumann sounds a bit Roach influenced. McCann’s guitar is soft and flowing and comps nicely. Recorded 1/18&19/15 the leaders note they hope to have a long tenure as a group and while the history, of groups suggesting that, suggests otherwise they are *together* on this CD.

*Robert Rusch*