ARTIST: ANDRZEJ SERAFIN  
TITLE: L.S.D  
LABEL: FLOWER RECORDS 023  

TUNES: Blues Noire/ Promenada / Powrot do swiatla / Deep River/ B.B. Blues / Boogeyman / Jurki Bezczelny / Czas juz spac 35:05  

PERSONNEL: Lenert Robert, harmonica; Serafin Andrzej, vibes, klawiszowe, perc.; Domarski Staszek, sax, fl Maj, Grudzien, Poland 2009

When is the last time so many chronologically disparate musical elements were merged with such success? We live in a time when post-modernity has itself become cliché, but it’s given new life on this brief but thrilling disc. Each track is a masterpiece of conflation and reference, so let the opener, “Blues Noire,” serve as a sort of microcosm of what follows. Tom Waits might be the first point of reference evoked by Serafin’s crystalline vibes and earthily hypnotic percussion. Gritty organ and Leonard Robert’s harmonic furthers the illusion, driving the trio deep into the primal rhythms of uhrblues. Yet, atop all this, a Fender Rhodes bespeaks that point in the 1970s when the textures were smoothed, making way for the multitempered being we still call fusion. A bit of folk guitar adds layers of complexity to the musical puzzle, and then, interjected between phrases, slices of percussion straight out of hiphop traverse the soundstage. Feel becomes a plaything as the eras are defined, merge and disappear, ultimately to be replaced by the calming repetitions of crickets and a nocturnal poem. These are the components that make up the rest of the album’s explorations. Check out the tasty field recordings gracing the appropriately named “Deep River,” or the deep percussives swagger of “B.B. Blues” to see how they play out. If there is a single flaw about this stunning production, it involves compositional development. I would have enjoyed some length to these vignettes, as some of the ideas would have benefitted from extension. That said, there is something to be said for a disc that does not outstay its welcome. This trio has crafted a fine suite of music that speaks to deep immersion into the seminal points of music history while never forgetting the value of a catchy melody or hip arrangement. It will be fascinating to see what path they choose next.

Mark Medwin

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