

NEW ISSUES

1) AMANDA TOSOFF WAIT AND SEE

CELLAR LIVE 81208

*SOARING / JULIA'S BLUES / NEW
/ SHORINJI KEMPO / SAD CLOWN
/ ROBYN'S SONG / WAIT AND SEE
/ STOVE TOP / LET ME KNOW /
RE-ENTRY. 67:36.*

Tosoff, p; Brad Turner, tpt, flgh;
Evan Arntzen, ss, ts; Sean Cronin,
b; Morgan Childs, d.
May 29 & 30, 2008,
Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

2) RYAN MEAGHER ATROEFY

FRESH SOUND NEW TALENT

334

*A DIVIDED ROAD / FAMILIAR
FAREWELL / CAN'T COMPLANE /
DOWNERS / REPUBLIC / POETRY
IN MOTIAN / RE: CREATION.
44:34.*

Meagher, g; Loren Stillman, as;
Matt Renzi, ts, cl; Geoff Kraly, b;
Vinnie Sperrazza, d.
Aug. 26, 2007, no location listed.

My introduction to pianist Amanda Tosoff came quite by accident and was one of those coincidental, quirk of fate type happenings that occur infrequently in most people's lives. My review package arrived the very same day I had just listened to another Cellar Live album entitled *Time* by the Morgan Childs Quintet, a nice neo-Hard Bop date that I reminded myself to check out again in the near future. The pianist was exceptionally impressive and I made a mental note to remember her name. A few hours later I unwrapped my review pack and there it was, right on top of the stack: **(1)** *Wait And See* by that very piano player and on the same label. Even some of the personnel was repeated: the leader of the other album, Morgan Childs, on drums; Sean Cronin on upright bass; and saxophonist Evan Amtzen. In fact, even her composition "Re-Entry" is present on both platters. Being recorded in a club setting, the Childs version is a little more animated, but this catchy line (built off the changes of "East Of The Sun" as writer Ross Taggart points out in his well-balanced liners) will set one's foot to patting in both renditions. Some of the tracks, like the opening waltz, "Soaring," are trio performances while "Robyn's Song" is a perceptive duet between the leader and Evan Arntzen's full-throated tenor. All of the titles stem from Ms. Tosoff's pen, with the exception of "Shorinji Kempo" contributed by bassist Sean Cronin who has some tasteful solos scattered throughout the disc. Perhaps the most impressive composition is "Let Me Know" with its almost hymn-like quality. Somewhere to the right of Eliane Elias and left of Geri Allen, this Canadian up and coming pianist is someone to keep an ear open for.

Although guitarist Meagher **(2)** fully qualifies to be on the Fresh Sound New Talent division, he is completely unknown to me. The same goes for his rhythm mates although the names Loren Stillman and Matt Renzi are somewhat more familiar. A transplanted Californian in his late twenties, this is fittingly his debut disc. All of the selections are his originals; they combine elements of fusion with hooky Jazz pop devices and allow the soloists to make intelligent and often creative statements on top of a Rock-heavy guitar foundation. I can't say I enjoyed either of the saxophonist's contributions as much as I have elsewhere but they all seem to be enjoying themselves, so be it. Just don't expect any tender ballads or straight swinging from this combine. As for the leader; it is clear he possesses mucho technique and has a clear idea as to how he wants to communicate his music—but think more Thurston Moore than John Pizzarelli. **(2)** will probably appeal to those that enjoy Alternate Rock more than those who lean to the six string stylings of