



The Drummonds

Pas De Trois

TRUE LIFE ENTERTAINMENT 100072

★★★★½

Renee Rosnes

◀ *Renee Rosnes And The Danish Radio Big Band*

BLUE NOTE 81704

★★★★

Whether it's the nature of the instrument or the instrumentalists themselves, jazz pianists have

the tendency to remain dedicated to disciplines. Even as some players mature and become more comfortable in their own skin, few manage to completely escape the spectral presence of their own influences. Renee Rosnes however appears perfectly comfortable throwing off the mantle of the faithful follower and striking off on her own.

With *Pas De Trois*, Rosnes' second studio disc with drummer and husband Billy Drummond and bassist and brother-in-law Ray Drummond, the Canadian-born pianist offers the sort of playing that first drew the attention of performers such as Joe Henderson, Wayne Shorter and J.J. Johnson. As a trio, the Drummonds have been working as a unit for the past 13 years and, more than anything else, the familiarity of that experience is what allows for these arrangements to ebb and flow effortlessly. Take, for instance, the freely rolling rhythmic motion of "My Romance" or the animated intensity of Shorter's "Golden Earrings" and it's clear that few musical corners ever go unpainted. As Billy remains dedicated to driving the three forward and coloring the space with his cymbal work, Ray lays down a generously thick foundation of harmonic motion, leaving Rosnes to mix in wide swaths of ever-changing harmonizations and melodic coloring.

While the Drummonds stay quietly focused on their sharp interpretations of the standards, Rosnes has the opportunity to tap into her own personal catalog with the Danish Radio Big Band on her latest solo offering. Drawing from her stints with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Rosnes, along with the help of arrangers Mike Mossman and the DRBB's director Jim McNeely, translates five of her own originals to the 20-member ensemble with incredible success. Where *Pas De Trois* reveals the variety of tendencies and leanings Rosnes may have on the bandstand within the confines of a trio, in a big band setting such characteristics become beautifully magnified, as seen in the driving percussive feel of the opening cut "Ancestors" to the dense horn harmonies of the closer "The Quiet Earth."

—John Kreicbergs

***Pas De Trois*:** You And The Night And The Music; Too Young To Go Steady; Pas De Trois; My Romance; Emily; Golden Earrings; Miyako; I Hear A Rhapsody; Haunted Heart. (51:21)

Personnel: Renee Rosnes, piano; Ray Drummond, bass; Billy Drummond, drums.

Ordering Info: www.truelifeentertainment.com

Renee Rosnes And The Danish Radio Big Band: Ancestors; Bulldog's Chicken Run; In This Moment; Black Holes; Early One Morning; Lament; Orion's Belt; The Quiet Earth. (68:26)

Personnel: Renee Rosnes, piano; with The Danish Radio Big Band directed by Jim McNeely.

Ordering Info: www.bluenote.com

