



HOT CLUB OF DETROIT

It's About That Time

MACK AVENUE

On their third CD, the unique-sounding Hot Club of Detroit delivers an entertaining mix of originals as well as compositions from various composers. Featuring Paul Brady (steel, nylon string rhythm guitars), Evan Perri (lead acoustic and electric guitars), Carl Cafagna (tenor & soprano saxes, clarinet), Julien Labro (accordion, bandoneon) and Andrew Kratzat (upright bass), this band sizzles with originality, enthusiasm, and consummate musicianship.

Launching the 13-tune fare with "On the Steps" (one of three tunes contributed by Labro), the quintet hints at what this outing is all about – assorted tempos, ear-appealing melodies and intelligent improvisations. Even when they slow down for their interpretation of Chopin's "Tristesse E Major Etude," their unique sound pervades the Classical music piece with delicate flavor. The crew totally refreshes Charles Mingus's "Nostalgia in Times Square," improvising smartly on the melody and maintaining a mid-tempo punctuated with hand claps and bass riffs under Cafagna's skillful soloing. Displaying this band's cleverness, they successfully combine Django Reinhardt's "Heavy Artillerie" with the title tune by Miles Davis. Other tunes by Reinhardt include "Sweet Chorus" and "Duke and Duke."

These talented musicians are full of surprises! Each player gets ample moments in the spotlight and team backing for soloists enhances each tune. There's not a dull moment on this disc.

Nancy Ann Lee