

Atlanticus

Live in NYC

Union URCD 0016 (CD, DL) ★★★★★

Terry Seabrook (org), Jack Kendon (t), Peter Fraize (ts), Milo Fell (d). Rec. 11 Jan 2024.



Atlanticus's earlier recording earned a four-star rating from me in *Jazzwise* 302, an assessment that is repeated here with this welcome follow-up. In effect this new release is a souvenir of this inventive British-American group's successful 2024 US tour, something of a highlight in the decade that they've been together, the album recorded at The Shrine in Harlem.

Seabrook, Brighton's keyboard king, is the group's sparkplug as instigator and composer but contributes just one piece this time, as does Kendon, to Fraize's four. So, a true partnership then, all for one and one for all, the album opening strongly with Fraize's jaunty 'Blue Haven', its organ-based hard bop feel sustained by Seabrook's warm keyboard sounds, Fraize the first to solo, Kendon effective in navigating the changes, Seabrook taking his cue, with nice riffs behind him, Fell adding impact. Seabrook's



'Upstream' is another in his list of titles with a marine reference and gets a mini-tsunami of hot trumpet from Kendon, Fell adding turbulence. The trumpeter then continues the watery theme with 'Uneven Shores', the tone more reflective, relaxed and relatively easy-going before another of US tenorist Fraize's well-made originals, 'Theme For Le', Kendon sprightly, Seabrook's Hammond-made bass line apposite before Fraize aims for the horizon, his complexity making one think of the late Michael Brecker.

I loved what Atlanticus do with Bobby Timmons's 'Moanin'', Fraize's upwardly-mobile opening cadenza with just Fell's tom-toms a highlight, ahead of the time-honoured theme. All in all, this is exemplary music, every man on the case, showing that there's life left aplenty in the classic Blue Note organ combo style, especially when it's played with this kind of verve. A great band to see live: look out for them. **Peter Vacher**

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