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IVO PERELMAN

Ivo

(K2B2 Records ★★★)

Tenor saxophonist Perelman manages some self-consciously adult pyrotechnics on this recording of mostly Brazilian children's songs. The tunes are simple, but they provide a solid base for Perelman to find the interstices between notes, giving off bubbling bolts of jazz a la Albert Ayler. In his solos, Perelman plays hints of the melodies in different keys, often building to a rhythmic frenzy with repetitions of key phrases. He's joined here by Airto on percussion and, on three tunes, by singer Flora Purim, who often plays off Perelman's sound as if she's another horn. "Circle Dance" is notable for its melding of jazz and reggae, a rare mix in jazz circles. Perelman is at his most lyrical on Milton Nascimento's "Point of Sand," a mellifluous cascading of strong tenor sounds; the rendition is so straight-ahead and unabashed that it makes the Aylerisms seem pretentious.