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IVO PERELMAN

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Despite what Kevin Whitehead says in his perceptive sleeve note, Ivo Perelman (pronounced ee-vo) does sound like Albert Ayler. Nevertheless, there are differences and, although Perelman also trades in simple melodies and has a similarly quirky approach to pitch, he does not have Ayler's gut-wrenching vibrato. The main similarity is in the way in which he creatively takes this traditional material on complex, improvisational excursions and in the way that he likes to insert his own private jokes.

He is helped here by a densely populated but highly effective rhythm section in which Airtó stays masterfully 'out of the way' while contributing massively and in which Erskine drives from the front. Flora Purim is in immaculate form, working in a musical environment perfectly suited to her and backed by kindred spirits.

The two duet tracks are a bonus and they find Elias playing with genuine sensitivity and Perelman in a more basically romantic mood. Despite this, there are moments when the tenor man puts the boot in, to ensure that romanticism is not construed as weakness. This is one that is well worth a try.

Barry McRae