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Jazz Video

Ivo Perelman: LIVE IN NEW YORK

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Ivo Perelman, tenor sax; Flora Purim, vocals; Geri Allen, piano; Fred Hopkins, bass; Andrew Cyrille, drums; Mino Cinelu, percussion; Elson Nascimento, bass drum

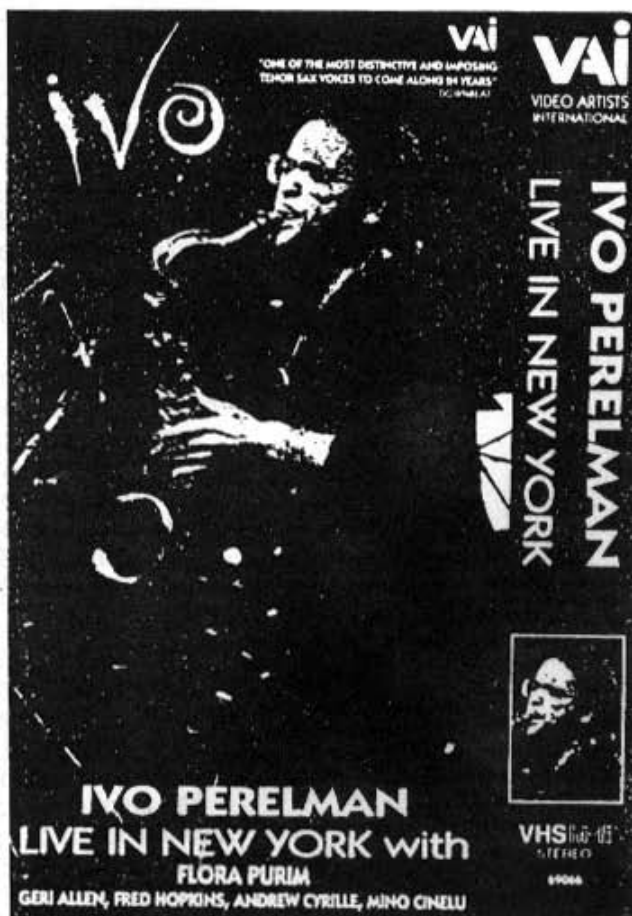
Slaves of Jo; Nesta Rua; The Carnation and the Rose

"Lyrical," "sensuous," and "caressing" are adjectives descriptive of most Brazilian jazz; Ivo Perelman's Brazilian jazz, however, has inspired comparisons to Albert Ayler and latter-day John Coltrane instead of Stan Getz. No bossa nova is heard on *Live in New York*, filmed at New York's Knitting Factory in October 1990. Instead, Perelman approaches three traditional Afro-Brazilian songs as uninhibited free-form jazz. Contrasting with Perelman's abrasive, chaotic, and highly dissonant tenor are the hypnotic, ethereal vocals of Flora Purim (whose ecstatic facial expressions underscore Perelman's spirituality) and the carnival-like rhythms of Mino Cinelu and Elson Nascimento. Geri Allen, meanwhile, shows herself to be a diverse soloist who can play with the humor of Thelonious Monk, the aggression of Cecil Taylor, or the intellect of Bud Powell.

Jazz—the movement that has, amazingly, kept evolving since the 1910s—seems to be big on "tradition" (read that conservatism) and short on innovation these days. But there are exceptions,

and Perelman is among those pointing jazz in new directions. If Trane's "Om" were Brazilian-influenced, perhaps it might sound something like the explorations of Ivo Perelman.

Alex H.



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