

Stephan Crump's Rhombal

PAPILLON SOUNDS



The adventurous composer-bassist Stephan Crump shares the weight of *Rhombal* amicably and dynamically with drummer Tyshawn Sorey, trumpeter Adam O’Farrill and tenor saxophonist Ellery Eskelin.

While this is clearly Crump’s album, it’s also a blend of four distinct personalities, each able to navigate rapidly mutating tunes.

Crump sequences this homage to his deceased brother with care and an element of surprise. As a result, *Rhombal* bristles with the unexpected and the lively. The nine tracks work as a whole; they also work individually, spanning the leisurely “NoD For Nelson,” the dirge-like “Grovi,” the boppish “Skippaningam” and “Esquima Dream,” a snappy showcase for Sorey at his funkier, with a tightly braided O’Farrill-Eskelin front line. Crump’s music is original, so you don’t spend time spotting the influences. It also feels lived-in and warm, particularly in the longer tunes like the alternately devotional and sassy “Loose Bay” and the similarly bifurcated “Pulling Pillars–Outro For Patty.” This group plays complex music freely, easily and memorably.

—Carlo Wolff

Rhombal: NoD For Nelson; Grovi; Skippaningam; Loose Bay; Esquima Dream; How Close Are You; Tschì; Birdwhistle; Pulling Pillars–Outro For Patty. (59:37)

Personnel: Stephan Crump, bass; Ellery Eskelin, tenor saxophone; Adam O’Farrill, trumpet; Tyshawn Sorey, drums.

Ordering info: stephancrump.com

