John Scofield - Groove Elation (1995)



01. Lazy play 02. Peculiar 03. Let the Cat Out 04. Kool play 05. Old Soul 06. Groove Elation 07. Carlos 08. Soft Shoe 09. Let it Shine 10. Biotop
Personnel: John Scofield (acoustic & electric guitars); Billy Drewes (tenor saxophone, flute); Howard Johnson (baritone saxophone, tuba, bass clarinet); Randy Brecker (trumpet, flugelhorn); Steve Turre (trombone); Larry Goldings (piano, organ); Dennis Irwin (bass); Idris Muhammad (drums); Don Alias (percussion).

John Scofield has continued to grow and evolve year-by-year. This 1995 set is quite blues-oriented, sometimes boppish and fairly laidback, almost sounding like a Jimmy Smith or Groove Holmes date from the 1960s. Larry Goldings (who doubles occasionally on piano) is almost as significant in the ensembles as the leader/guitarist and has become the most important arrival on organ since Joey DeFrancesco and Barbara Dennerlein. Many of the tunes (all Scofield originals) use parade-like rhythms propelled by Idris Muhammad and Dennis Irwin (particularly the eccentric "Peculiar" and "Groove Elation") and the interplay between the two lead voices is quite appealing. Scofield is quite unselfish as far as taking solo space goes (he clearly enjoys the light funky grooves set by Goldings) and the results are quite appealing. ~ Scott Yanow

Scofield's has put together a fantastic group of musicians and tunes for this rhythmic workout. This album simply does not have a low point or weak track. Most tracks feature a nice, accessible funky groove, hence the title. Sco does slow it down for a few tunes to feature his acoustic guitar, with pleasing results. The horns and organ contribute heavily on several tunes, although there is still room for Sco to stretch out with some great solos on most tracks.

The lone complaint I would have is that the bass is not quite loud enough in the mix. On a funky set like this, I would have liked to hear the bass a bit more prominently. This album should rank as one of Sco's finest, a fine complement to "a go go" and "bump" which are also highly recommended. For the keen ear, listen carefully for motifs and beats (tracks 4 and 10) that Sco explores again later on his next two funk albums.

download (mp3 @160 kbs):

uploaded yandex 4shared mega solidfiles zalivalka cloudmailru filecloudio oboom

clicknupload

back