

New Standard Quintet *The Many Faces*

NEW STANDARD MUSIC

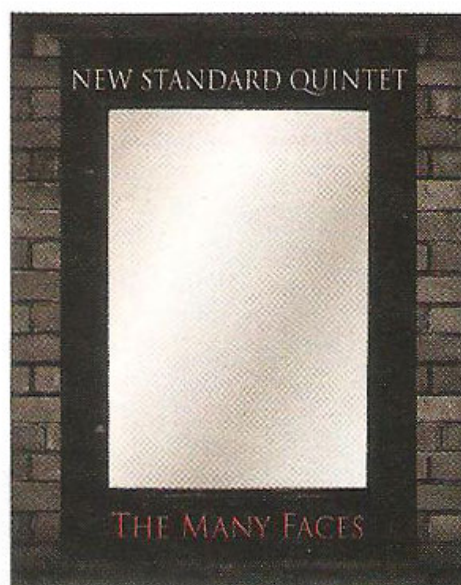
★★★½

The “faces” cited in the title of this debut from Chicago-based New Standard Quintet refer to the multitude of sounds the group explores on a program of original music by saxophonist/leader Ken Partyka and guitarist Pat Fleming.

This band has a way of sounding right at home on a wide range of material, whether it’s a slow, lazy swinger (“Mirror, Mirror”), bossa nova (“A Voz Doce”), grooving hard-bopper (“In The Kitchen”), or harmonically challenging modern-leaning adventure (“Uncertainty Principle”). It stands as a testament to the restrained maturity of each of these fine instrumentalists, their cohesiveness as a group and the rich compositions they embrace. These guys aren’t out to impress listeners with extreme statements; rather, they strive for artistic excellence and meaningful interplay.

The quintet integrates traditional and contemporary elements to create a group sound that is defined by both acoustic and electric instruments in the keyboard, guitar and bass roles. It all depends on what’s appropriate given the compositional context of each tune.

The Many Faces has an undertone of quiet confidence that guides the listener through the unexpected melodic turns and subtly shifting syncopation of its deceptively advanced compositions. —Ed Enright



The Many Faces: The Melbourne Method; Mirror, Mirror; A Voz Doce; Uncertainty Principle; The Many Faces; Only More So...; One Eyed Jacks; In The Kitchen; No More Words (Goodnight). (51:50)

Personnel: Ken Partyka, tenor, soprano, alto saxophones; Pat Fleming, guitars; Tom Vaitas, keyboards, piano; Curt Bley, basses; Rick Vitek, drums.

Ordering info: newstandardlive.com