



Song Review: Marc Matthys - Illusion

Overall Impression: As the notes of "Illusion" unfurl in a cascade of mesmerizing sound, it becomes immediately apparent that the pianist behind this electrifying jazz piece is not merely a musician but a virtuoso, a sorcerer of keys weaving a spellbinding tale through the instrument - enter Marc Matthys. The composition begins with a delicate touch, a pianissimo entrance that draws the listener into a realm where the line between reality and illusion blurs, and musical fantasy takes over. Marc Matthys has crafted a truly mesmerizing Jazz instrumental that manages to blissfully combine tantalizing dashes of harmonic complexity with dashing bouts of melodic flair and commanding musicianship, resulting in a deeply absorbing listening experience from start to finish.

Strongest Point(s): The dexterity displayed is not just technical prowess; it is a storytelling device, each note a word carefully chosen to contribute to the unfolding narrative of the piece. Marc's control over dynamics is particularly noteworthy, and as a result, the composition can adopt a strongly defined sense of contour and shape that helps create a dynamic ebb and flow that keeps the audience on the edge of their seats throughout. The ivory keys become a playground for this maestro, and every note is a manifestation of technical brilliance and expressive storytelling. Marc navigates the intricate labyrinth of the composition with ease, effortlessly balancing lightning-fast runs with poignant moments of introspection. There's an undeniable fluidity to the performance, a river of sound that meanders through valleys of melancholy and peaks of exuberance.

One of the most captivating elements of "Illusion" is the symbiotic relationship between the piano, the double bass, and the percussion. The double bass serves as a sturdy anchor, its resonant tones providing a rich foundation for the pianist's flights of fancy. The bassist's nimble fingers navigate the strings with precision, adding a layer of depth to the composition. The interplay between these distinct elements serves as a glowing testament to the ensemble's chemistry, as they engage in a musical dialogue that enriches the overall tapestry of sound. As the composition progresses, Marc embarks on breathtaking improvisations, showcasing a mastery of jazz language and an intuitive sense of harmony. The virtuosic passages are not just displays of technical skill but are imbued with emotion, conveying a spectrum of feelings from exuberance to introspection.

Target Audience Appeal: "Illusion" is a scintillating piece of jazz instrumental writing and I'm sure it will strongly resonate with many a Jazz lover.

Artist target suggestions: Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Miles Davis, Oscar Peterson Trio, The Dave Brubeck Quartet, Wayne Shorter, John Coltrane, Art Blakey, Toots Thielemans, Bob James

About The Reviewer: Andre Avanesian is a freelance session guitarist, composer, and sound engineer based in the U.K. Having studied music production and composition at a degree level, he has taken his passion for all things audio-related to a level that has allowed him to become both a competent musician and performer. Being a self-confessed "Guitar Nerd" Andre has been continually studying the guitar as well as teaching it, helping students learn the instrument, develop their songwriting, and become proficient in home recording.