

Yuri Honing Acoustic Quartet: True – review

(Challenge)



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Yuri Honing
Acoustic Quartet
True
Challenge
2012

The Dutch saxophonist Yuri Honing, who comes to London with this meditative music next week has also worked on edgier projects with fellow countryman Misha Mengelberg and improvised on everything from pop hits to Schubert. However, this album is closer to the slow-moving, saxophone tone-poetry of Jan Garbarek. Recorded in one day in Berlin with the first Honing band in a decade to feature a pianist (fellow Dutchman Wolfert Brederode), it includes a couple of pop diversions (Goldfrapp's Paper Bag and David Bowie's Bring Me the Disco King) but is otherwise wistful Honing material, and bassist Ruben Samama's gently bouncing Nobody Knows. The title theme features Honing's forlorn alto curling over Joost Lijbaart's slow backbeat. Meanwhile, Paper Bag gets two visits (the first a mix of wistful long sounds and short prodding phrases, the second a minimal piece of dreamy impressionism), and Bring Me

the Disco King is a quiet piping piece of saxophone intimacy over a distant piano vamp. It's a laid-back, stripped-down venture compared to earlier forays into free jazz, electric and symphonic music, but many years of fiercer jazz-making have been the groundwork for this kind of sumptuous understatement.

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