

Tony Do Rosario is a Chicago-based jazz guitarist of Brazilian descent who is quickly making a name for himself as one of the city's must see jazz musicians. After growing up in Atlantic City and living in Los Angeles for a time, Rosario has recently settled in the Windy City where he teaches at the Old Town School of Folk Music and gigs regularly in the Chicago metro area.

On *The Welcoming*, his debut album as a leader, Rosario has gathered together a wonderful ensemble selected from Chicago's top performers. Bob Shomo (drums), Behn Gillece (vibes) and Dan Kostelnik (organ), play very well together, and their interaction when comping and soloing makes each tune a joy to listen to. Of particular note is the album's opening track, *Childhood Memories*. The tune is written in 6/8 with a very loose, almost floating feel to the pulse. The rhythm section does a great job of changing the groove throughout the piece to avoid a monotonous feeling.

The pieces that Rosario has chosen for the album consist of five originals and two pieces from the jazz/pop world: *Jean de Fleur* by Grant Green and *Simone* by Frank Foster. Each piece has its own distinct place within the overall context of the album, and Rosario has chosen to arrange the tunes so that there is never a similar groove in two adjacent tracks. This helps give the CD the sense that it is a larger work; that Rosario was not only thinking of each track, but of the album as a whole when he recorded the CD.

Rosario's playing is consistent throughout the album. His solos are entertaining and are always creative. He has a strong sense of the jazz tradition, yet manages to intertwine his own unique sense of melody and rhythm into every line. Though he has plenty of chops, Rosario's strength lies in his ability to create and develop interesting motives within his phrases. This album would make a great addition to any jazz fan's library. The tunes are well written, the solos well constructed, and the musicians are constantly interacting and building off of each other's energy.

*Review by Matthew Warnock*