

DOWNBEAT

Jazz, Blues & Beyond

SINCE 1934



Jason Palmer *Here Today*

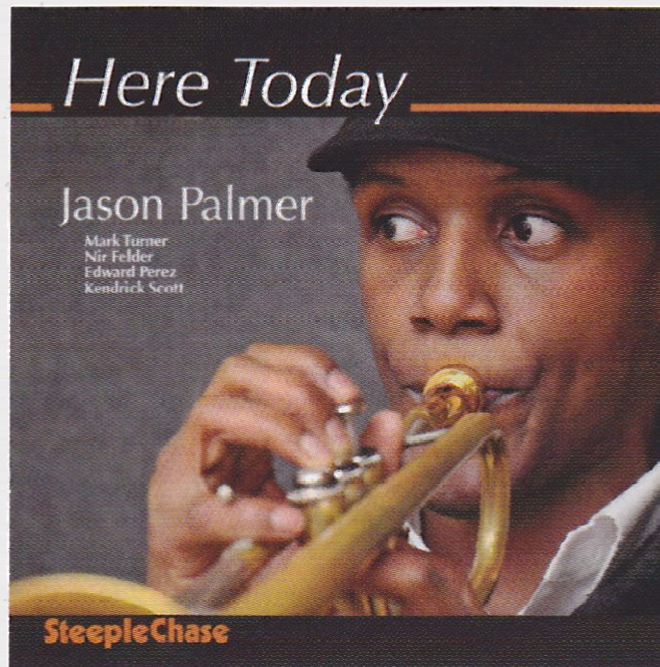
STEEPLECHASE 31724

★★★★½

Jason Palmer's "Skylark" sits on the back of the beat, casual in its introspection. The duet with tenor saxophonist Mark Turner is all about creating a soothing atmosphere in the middle of *Here Today's* lively tunes. But like the rest of the compositions on the disc, "Skylark" has a little something more, a path that's not as straightforward as it seems. After a final run-through of the melody, the drums shimmer and Palmer changes moods, choosing a more sultry approach for "I Can't Help It," the tune made famous by Michael Jackson.

This blend of pop and a well-worn standard mirrors the feel of the record as a whole; Palmer has created an album of lengthy, intriguing compositions that are full of engaging extras.

A constant presence on this CD, Palmer's third as a leader in four years, is Nir Felder's guitar, which is used in unison to add depth to Palmer's trumpet lines or to create atmosphere at the beginning of tunes like "Abu Abed." The band's sonorities—trumpet, tenor, guitar, bass—blend well together, and Palmer



has created a nice balance among his compatriots.

For Palmer's last outing, released in 2010, the trumpeter brought what amounted to his musical family into the studio to record *Nothing To Hide*. The musicians had been playing together as the house band at Wally's Jazz Café

in Boston since 2001, so they were intimately familiar with each other. Palmer chose to expand his range a bit on this album—all the musicians are based in New York but have ties to the Boston area. This sense of community, and the shared geographical connection, lends a warm, joyful presence to the music.

Palmer is an exciting player—achieving pinpoint focus in his attack one minute, turning his concrete bebop lines into caramel, sliding through pitches and bending them to his will the next. If Palmer's music stays close to home, he should go far.

—Jon Ross

Here Today: Here Today, Gone Yesterday; Abu Abed; 3rd Shift; Takes Courage To Be Happy; Skylark/I Can't Help It; 3 Point Turn; Capricorn, (60:04)

Personnel: Jason Palmer, trumpet; Mark Turner, tenor saxophone; Nir Felder, guitar; Edward Perez, bass; Kendrick Scott, drums.

Ordering info: steeplechase.dk

Chick Corea's Monthlong Birthday Bash // Anthony Braxton

DOWNBEAT

Jazz, Blues & Beyond

GEORGE BENSON COMES HOME

//////
Enrico Rava

//////
John Hollenbeck

//////
Summer Jazz
Camp Guide

//////
Donny McCaslin
BLINDFOLD TEST

//////
SPECIAL SECTION
Indie Life

//////
Brubeck
HOT BOXED

MARCH 2012

U.K. £3.50



DOWNBEAT.COM

