

The *Jimmy Greene Quartet* (SmallLive 0012; 62:47 ★★★★★) disc starts out channeling the John Coltrane quartet with all its combustible intent. With saxophonist Greene blasting off with pianist Xavier Davis, bassist Ugonna Okegwo and drummer Gregory Hutchinson, the band blows through five Greene originals and Thelonious Monk's "Ugly Beauty." The aptly titled "Sense Of Urgency" tears the head off the music as the opener, its uptempo gait, stop-and-mostly-start arrangement the perfect vehicle for all onboard, Hutchinson's solo, in particular, a seamless, musical and explosive part of everything. The pause comes with the Thelonious Monk ballad, played true to form, patiently, lyrically, Greene's sweet soprano recalling another great, the former Monk colleague Steve Lacy. The heat returns with Greene's uptempo, quasi-rock/Latin "Soul Music," a tune that reflects his more composerly side, with less blowing and more dancing all around through a tighter arrangement. **DB**

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