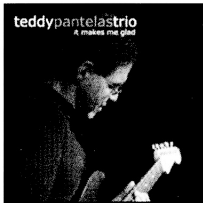


Sean Jones. He has also performed and recorded with Contemporary Christian Music guitar legend, Phil Keaggy. He has now released his second self-produced CD, *It Makes Me Glad*, on Tatsou Records. Forgive me for being unable to resist the pun, but this is a disc that really made *me* glad.

Pantelas style of play is very interesting. He has clearly been heavily influenced by Pat Metheny, with a touch of Hendrix-like fuzz and distortion thrown in to rough things up a bit. His band mates here are a couple of solid musicians, also with ties to the Allegheny region; bassist Jeff Grubbs, has played, in the jazz world, with drummer Duffy Jackson, gritty saxman Turk Mauro and trumpeter Melton Mustafa; drummer Darryl Pellegrini has kept time for the Woody Herman Orchestra, the Village Vanguard Orchestra and Chuck Mangione. Apparently, Pelligrini now resides in Hawaii, which in and of itself, makes me a bit envious. Sean Jones also sits in with the band, for a couple of selections, on trumpet of course.

There are eight selections on the album, all Pantelas originals. Pantelas is a better than average writer, and the band turns in memorable performances on several selections. The wryly titled "The Sound of One Hand Clapping," opens the proceedings in fine fashion, with some nice single-line playing, leavened by occasional Metheny-like distortion around the edges. Pantelas is a dexterous player, who also swings like crazy, something that can't always be said about those who are fleet of hand. The Latin-tinged "Hercules, Hercules" follows. It's another strong cut that I thoroughly enjoyed (once I expunged the image of a clapping, manically-grinning, drag-dressed Eddie Murphy, brought on by the song's title, from my mind). This time out, Pantelas playing is a little bit denser, but still just as satisfying. Grubbs and Pellegrini provide solid support, as they do throughout the disc. Sean Jones makes the first of his two appearances and "funks up" the proceedings a little bit, on the thirteen minute "Kickin' Back." This piece has the rhythm and feel of Miles Davis' *Tutu*, but with Jones playing an un-muted trumpet and taking off on some blazing mid-register runs. Pantelas then follows him with some of his hottest, and at the same time, coolest work on the disc. Pantelas and Jones have apparently known each other for a number of years and their personal friendship is evident in their musical compatibility. While the whole disc is very good, the two cuts on which Jones is present, truly take things to another level. Grubbs, who is a revelation to me, turns in his best work on "Split Second," showing himself to be every bit the equal of the leader. His "day job" is as a bassist with the world renowned Pittsburgh Symphony, where I'm sure he doesn't get too many opportunities to flow like this. Grubbs' muscular solo in the middle of "Split Second" seems to inspire to Pantelas, who seems to break free into Stratocaster heaven on his ensuing turn. Jones returns for "Tonga's Screams of Joy," playing beautiful, muted counterpoint with the leader, over Pellegrini's military beat, to state the theme, before both men lay down some cool and varied solo work. Mr. Jones is very much in a "Miles" mode and the work from both Jones and Pantelas is so good here, that I'm guessing that this is what a meeting between the latter-day Miles and Pat Metheny would have sounded like.

Like so many musicians, Pantelas is widely respected and well known in his hometown, but for various reasons, has received little exposure outside of his own backyard. We can hope that the release of *It Makes Me Glad*, will get this guitarist some of the attention that he deserves. This is not a Kenny Burrell or Tal Farlow style trio, but if you are open to some of what has occurred in the jazz guitar world, since the seventies, you will dig this disc. *It Makes Me Glad*, is first rate music from a group of first rate musicians. It is highly recommended.



TEDDY PANTELAS

IT MAKES ME GLAD — Tatsou Records #0001.
Web: www.teddypantelas.com. *The Sound of One Hand Clapping; Hercules, Hercules; Kickin' Back; Split Second; Lee Ann's Gift; Tonga's Screams of Joy; It Makes Me Glad; Shooting Star.*

PERSONNEL: Teddy Pantelas, guitar; Jeff Grubbs, bass; Darryl Pellegrini, drums; Sean Jones, trumpet.

By Curtis Davenport

Teddy Pantelas taught himself to play the guitar and began to play at the ripe old age of six. He has performed mostly in his native region of Western Pennsylvania and Northeastern Ohio. He has played with many of the major jazz artists who either hail from that region or have passed through. His credits include the late organ master Jack McDuff, vocalist Vanessa Rubin, guitarist Jimmy Ponder, trombonist/big band leader John Fedchock and rising young trumpet star,

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