

Jazz Society of Oregon

October 2009
Review by Kyle O'Brien

We Take No Prisoners, Joris Teepe Big Band.

Dutch native Teepe has been living in New York since 1992, and he has a nice blend of European jazz sense with an urban bite on this cutting edge big band disc. The bassist definitely lives up to the title from note one. "Flight 643" is a sometimes cacophonous tune with angular rhythms, brass punches, thick chords, intertwined lines, and in-your-face solos by trumpeter Josh Evans and saxophonist Mark Gross. The 16-piece band balances precision with energy and is up to the sometimes demanding nature of the music, as on the breakneck bop of the title track, which is handled nicely by soloists Jon Davis on piano and Jason Marshall on bari. Teepe's tunes are muscular, even in the quietest moments, like the a cappella horns on "Peace on Earth." He likes dense chords and taking things outside, as on the theme piece, "The Princess and the Monster." Teepe brings considerable energy to the big band setting but never seems to calm things down enough for balance.

2009, Challenge Records, 54:40.