



Jessica Jones Quartet *Moxie*

NEW ARTISTS 1062

(Three and a half stars)

Jessica and Tony Jones have been partners in music and life for upwards of 30 years, which accounts for the easy rapport on display throughout this record. The couple has worked with idiosyncratic avant-gardists and genre mixers on either American coast, including Peter Apfelbaum, Joseph Jarman, Marco Eneidi and Don Cherry. Both Joneses play tenor saxophone, and on *Moxie* they shift fluidly between unison statements and passages, one player shadowing the other so sympathetically that one forgets it's two musicians. This unity is one of the most attractive things about this album, the fourth CD by their quartet, and it is enhanced by the rhythm section's empathy. Kenny Wollesen and Stomu Takeishi may not have recorded with the quartet before, but they were in an early version of it back in the '80s.

The ensemble's affinity enhances the moments where the music pulls taut or picks up steam. On "Haitian Cotillion," they switch tempos every couple of measures, but it never feels like they are simply flexing muscles. Rather, the jubilant grooves impart the joy of a night of dancing.

—*Bill Meyer*

Moxie: Moxie; In A Sentimental Mood; Haitian Cotillion; Soft Target; Dear Toy; Clapping Game; Tag On A Train; Manhattan. (52:19) **Personnel:** Jessica Jones, Tony Jones, tenor saxophone; Kenny Wollesen, drums; Stomu Takeishi, bass.

Ordering info: jessicajonesmusic.com