



JAZZ

Lois
Moody

Jed Levy
Good People
(Reservoir RSR 105)

This is the debut album as leader for tenor saxophonist Jed Levy. His credits as a sideman include some impressive associations — Jaki Byard, Jack Walrath and Jack McDuff. In this quintet session, Levy is joined by Canadian guitarist Peter Leitch (now an entrenched New Yorker) and the piano, bass and drums team of Peter Madsen, Rufus Reid and Billy Hart. They bring out the truth of the album title.

The half-dozen pieces are all good vehicles for showing the scope of Levy's interests and the consistency with which seeks the right sound and the right feeling.

His own compositions are the backbone of the collection. The line and pacing of *Red Lipstick* are lyrical and dreamy. The title piece is modal and looser in movement. In *The Zealots*, the influences are both blues-based bop and the melodic concepts of Middle-Eastern music. His final piece, *Jenkuja*, is another interesting study in form and where it leads the improvising soloists. Each player gets room to stretch here, making it one of the album's best tracks.

Just In Time is taken as a tearaway bop exercise. The Billy Strayhorn classic, *Daydream*, is a gem of gentle melancholy, which Levy handles with great heart.

This is a good beginning for Levy as a leader. May he always be so fortunate with his playing companions.