

Quotes

First and foremost, a formidable pianist, and an equally formidable composer. (Martial Solal / France Musique)

:: His music is a real contemporary jazz showcase with all ingredients you would hope to find: a wide variety of textures and moods, complex and rich harmonies, unusual forms, sweeping as well as angular melodies, eight notes and straight ahead time and some beautiful ballads. (Dave Liebman)

:: "Out A Day" is mesmerizing in its twists and turns. (Shaukat Husain / Coda Magazine "Out A Day" review)

:: Amsallem has the crystalline touch, harmonic genius, passionate romanticism, and clarity of lines you would associate with pianists Keith Jarrett, Michel Petrucciani and Brad Mehldau. Add Gary Peacock on bass and Bill Stewart on drums and you've got not only an extraordinary talent but a great trio album. Franck Amsallem is a major new artist whose next project I am looking forward to. (Paul DeBarros The Seattle Times "Out A Day" review)

:: A bracing set of originals whose lean, nononsense designs provide effective springboards for the leader's thoughtful and impassioned improvisatory quest. Amsallem's at once spare and sprightly outing bears comparison to the lyric legacy of Bill Evans. Compelling! (Chuck Berg JazzTimes "Regards" review)

:: Original compositions alternating with superb melodies and uncommon rhythmic patterns give this CD an authentic originality and a timeless strength. (Claude Loxhay Jazz Around / "Is That So" review)

:: The interplay with bass and drums is remarkable. Amsallem displays an energetic and mature playing, a great harmonic openness and a refined touch. (Paul Benkimoun Jazz Magazine "Years Gone By" review)

:: Amsallem is not as well known as these others, but he ought to be. The French pianist has recorded Summer Times as a way of proving himself on more accessible standards such as Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" and Albert Hague's "Young and Foolish." It would be a shame if more people didn't take advantage of the opportunity to hear him giving these familiar tunes such unique treatment (Eric J. Iannelli "Summer Times" review).

:: Jazz via Tin Pan Alley." That's a quote from his notes, which sound remarkably like his keyboard style: laid-back, yet brash; simple, yet complex: unassuming, yet confident; and above all, original. Amsallem is always thinking, but the emotional highlight comes on the introspective "Young and Foolish." A ballad always separates the man from the boy, and the multilayered Summer Times is all human. ("JazzTimes" Summer Times review)