

PRESS ARTICLE

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RALE MICIC

Guitarist / Composer
CTA Records Recording Artist

Rale Micic

Serbia »

CTA RECORDS 004

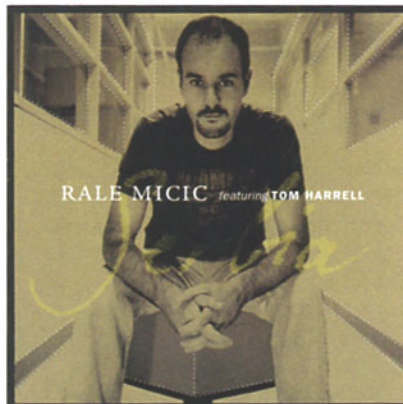
★★★

Goran Ivanovic Group

*Goran Ivanovic
Group*

BALKAN SONG
RECORDS 001

★★★



Rale Micic from Serbia and Goran Ivanovic from Croatia are two talented jazz guitarists. Both are solid bandleaders who surround themselves with American musicians, but Micic sublimates his traditional Balkan folk music influences while Ivanovic embraces them more overtly. And not surprisingly, one plays it cool, the other hot.

Micic is the cool cat, and *Serbia* is mellow, tight and tasteful, with guest trumpeter Tom Harrell spicing up the proceedings. Micic, who came to Berklee College of Music on a scholarship in 1995, provides some well-played—albeit conventional—Americanized jazz. Mentored at Berklee by Mick Goodrick, Micic is a subtle, intelligent player who echoes the likes of Jim Hall. His backing group is empathetic, and their understated flexibility is one of the recording's many strengths.

Micic and his band perform original material here, save for one traditional Serbian tune, and their collective sound is straightforward and engaging. The swinging rhythm section of drummer Gregory Hutchinson and bassist Sean Conly drive the arrangements from underneath, and tenor man Bob Reynolds ably rounds out the band's frontline alongside Micic and Harrell.

Playing both acoustic and electric guitars, Micic has a concise picking style and his chord work is equally clean. Harrell thrives in this reserved setting, and his unison playing with Reynolds is silky smooth.

—Mitch Myers

Serbia: Dimitrije, Sine Mitre; Song For Alma; Through The Night; Lucky Number; Far From Home; Together; Blessing; By Your Side; Happiness; Serbia. (58:39)

Personnel: Rale Micic, electric guitar, nylon string guitar; Tom Harrell, trumpet, flugelhorn; Bob Reynolds, tenor saxophone; Gregory Hutchinson, drums; Sean Conly, bass.

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