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### Joris Teepe Big Band

*We Take No Prisoners*

CHALLENGE RECORDS 73284

★★★

Born in the Netherlands, bassist/composer Joris Teepe arrived in New York in 1992, and has

spent the ensuing decades backing up a who's who of mainstream jazz leaders, all while amassing a considerable discography of his own featuring the likes of Don Braden, Chris Potter and Randy Brecker. His first big band outing is the result of a commission for the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, and the ensuing material shows the influence of both homes.

Teepe has embraced Americana with a fervor undiluted by the ironic detachment with which most natives would feel obligated to filter their approach. But though the album is chock full of old school swing, it is refracted slightly through the bent lens of the New Dutch variety.

The leader never evidences the need to hog the spotlight on the disc's six tracks, but there are hints throughout that this is a bassist's date. First are the burly arrangements, which apply the full weight of the ensemble's 17 pieces on bold, steamroller themes. Even the idyllic opening section of "Peace On Earth" doesn't trade power for delicacy, instead moving the horns with the lumbering grace of shifting glaciers.



There's also the attention lavished on low-end compatriots Earl McIntyre (bass trombone) and Jason Marshall (baritone sax). Both are showcased on the title tune, which begins with a power-walking piano trio but erupts into big-shouldered horn cascades, the show of force which backs up the title's tough talk.

Teepe is unafraid of carrying the banner for his influences, from the jaunty, stabbing Duke Ellington-like lines of opener "Flight 643" to the overtly Charles Mingus-evoking bass solo that opens "The Princess And The Monster," which evolves over its 13 minutes into a florid dirge.

Most poignant is "Almost Lucky," which features the late Rashied Ali, a frequent collaborator over the years. The rhythm-frontline relationship is herein reversed so that the horns provide slabs of monolithic sound, loosing the drummer to engage in a free-roaming conversation with Teepe as well as Bruce Arnold's atmospheric guitar.

—Shaun Brady

***We Take No Prisoners:*** Flight 643; We Take No Prisoners; Peace On Earth; Almost Lucky; It Is Peculiar; The Princess And The Monster. (54:43)

**Personnel:** Michael Mossman, John Eckert, Vitaly Golovnev, Josh Evans, trumpets; Noah Bless, Dion Tucker, Stafford Hunter, Earl McIntyre, trombones; Mark Gross, Craig Bailey, Don Braden (5, 6), Peter Brainin, Adam Kolker (1–4), Jason Marshall, reeds; Jon Davis, piano; Bruce Arnold, guitar; Joris Teepe, bass; Gene Jackson, Rashied Ali (4), drums.

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