

RHP

Richard Hallebeek is one of the best kept secrets of the Dutch music scene. On his self-titled debut cd, RHP he showcases a breathtaking brand of jazz rock. Just when you think during the first song: 'hmmm, ok this is influenced by Tribal Tech...' he goes on to reference Weather Report, Return To Forever, Chick Corea's Electric Band, etc.; plus a lot of really original sounds. The compositions are thorough, extended and every once in a while harmonically and rhythmically heavy. Still they are great to listen to and that qualifies Hallebeek's compositional qualities. Musicians that write more mediocre tunes bug us too much with unmemorable 'krinkel' themes or stupid children's songs with pseudo-difficult chords to make up for the dumb melodies. Nothing like that at all on this album, thank god. Hallebeek's guitar playing shines with a remarkable fluid phrasing. A frothy, overdriven solo sound and a masterly power-over-melody and harmony. Udo Pannekeet plays left-handed six-string fretless bass. (tip: if you want to tease the workers in a music store, ask them if they have left-handed six-string basses in stock...). Pannekeet is stylistically on the same level as his colleague, but his strong side is the pumping of extremely great bass lines. Reasonably virtuosic, interactive and with a fat sound, he really finishes this album. If the so-called big names could come up with albums as good as this, who knows, the state of electric jazz would maybe be perfect.