



Album reviews

Album reviews with IAN SINCLAIR

Reviews of Strange Discipline, Valley of Heart's Delight and Sonicwonderland

Sonicwonderland

Hiromi

(Telarc/Concord)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOqR_aycESw

HHHHI

THE new album from Hiromi Uehara, the first with her band Sonicwonder, is certainly eclectic.

Working with Adam O'Farrill on trumpet, bassist Hadrien Feraud and Gene Coye on drums, the virtuoso Japanese jazz pianist moves from contemplative melancholy (the lovely Polaris) to emotive vocal jazz on Reminiscence, featuring Oli Rockberger from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

So far, so normal.

Throw in the crazy Propellerheads-style beeps and bleeps at the beginning of the title track, and closer Bonus Stage, which sounds like a madcap ragtime soundtrack to a silent-era comedy film, and you've got one of the most varied sets I've heard in quite a while.

Hiromi is playing the London Jazz Festival in November, and if videos of her live performances on YouTube are anything to go by, it will be an entertaining show.