



ALBUM REVIEWS

HIROMI

Sonicwonderland: *Wanted*, *Sonicwonderland*, *Polaris*, *Reminiscence*, *Utopia* etc

Telarc TEL00170

★★★★★



The opening track, *Wanted*, is reminiscent of late 80s and 90s albums by major jazz pianists of that era whose albums of original compositions which were centred around a piano trio, often with big-sounding fretless electric bass, and the addition of synthesiser textures and occasional guest musicians. (The late Michel Petrucciani, John Beasley, and a very young Jason Rebello spring to mind.) On *Sonicwonderland* and *Trial and Error* the sonic palette and musical stylings might change to something a little more contemporary, but I'm still hearing the ghost of Petrucciani as the album unfolds, whatever the sonic choices. *Up* sees Hiromi in explosive Michel Camilo Latin groove mode, highlighting her fine technique. The company is great: trumpeter Adam O'Farrill, bassist Hadrien Feraud and drummer Gene Coye all serve the cause with style, helping to make a very enjoyable jazz album, but I'm still looking for a more personal-sounding Hiromi. **DJ**