

KRISKINGPHOTO.COM

BILL KING MUSIC.COM Producer / Arranger

RADIOIRECTX.COM - Jazz / Blues / World / Latin Radio Promotion Worldwide

# EJAZZNEWS

TRY IT FREE!



**BANDZOOGLE**  
BAND SITES THAT WORK

CD REVIEW SUBMISSION INFO

SUBMIT NEWS / REVIEWS / PR RELEASES

ADVERTISE ON EJAZZNEWS



**EJN** FREE 10 Song MP3 Weekly Music Sampler

**EJAZZTRAVEL**

**EJAZZTV** YouTube

**7ARTS MUSIC**

### Main Menu

- [Home](#)
- [Profiles](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Club Listings / Gigs](#)
- [Jazz Topics](#)
- [Music Business](#)
- [Recording Musician](#)
- [Technology News](#)
- [Jazz Radio Playlists](#)
- [Canada Jazz Festivals](#)
- [Festival Info](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Jazz Web Links](#)

### User Area

- [Login / Logout](#)
- [Add Your Link](#)
- [Submit News / PR](#)

### General Site Info

- [Stats](#)
- [Top 10 List](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Members List](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Contact eJazzNews](#)

Search eJazzNews

### New Jazz Links

- [INDEED SOULFUL New release from Bobby Lee](#)
- [World Wide Jazz](#)
- [GuavaJamm](#)
- [Entertainment Inc](#)
- [Daniel Gassin - Australian/French jazz pianist](#)
- [The Warwick Valley Jazz Festival](#)

MyJazzMail

Over 3500 Users to date!

## Gwilym Simcock Blues Vignette Basho Music - 2010

Posted by: editoron Tuesday, August 10, 2010 - 09:40 AM

by Mark Hayes

The latest release from the gifted, young pianist Gwilym Simcock, *Blues Vignette* (Basho 2010), offers a welcome challenge – to listen carefully and not be restricted by the classifications of genre and style. Purists of one sort or another, who would define classical or jazz music as confirming to a short list of recognizable traits, will likely struggle with the over two hours of music on the curiously titled *Blues Vignette*, an ambitious double-CD that ranges from solo piano numbers, to a concerto duet for cello and piano, to the familiar – but fresh-sounding – trio of piano, bass, and drums. Gwilym Simcock is generous with his surprises.

The first disc seems to offer Simcock in what might be described as a “concert hall” mode, presenting the pianist alone, working through his ideas and showing his chops on his instrument or playing thought-composed pieces. Opening with a lyrical composition, “Little People,” Simcock lets everyone know that his European training can swing as well. This is followed by two pieces in tension with each other, the serene “Exploration on Movement II of Grieg Piano Concerto” and the familiar “On Broadway,” which Simcock tears through, even utilizing the wood and metal guts of the piano for percussive effect. Shifting moods, Simcock then mediates over the keyboard in three “Improvisations.” Further exploration of the landscape of the piano happens in the dramatic “Caldera,” a composition which takes its name from a particularly interesting geologic formation found in volcanic craters. Simcock finishes his solo work with the dynamic “Jaco and Joe,” a study in left hand and right hand interplay named with musicians Pastorius and Zawinul in mind, one assumes. Closing the first half of *Blues Vignette* is the two part “Suite for Cello and Piano,” on which Simcock is joined by Cara Berridge, and the music here is thoughtful in a similar manner to the earlier improvisations.

More suited to jazz fans is the second disc, where bassist Yuri Golubev and drummer James Madden join Simcock in moving to a jazz trio setting. Always mindful of the order of songs on *Blues Vignette*, however, Simcock’s “Introduction” to CD two sounds very “classical” indeed, right down to its bowed bass lines. “Tundra” is a brisk baroque swinger that could have come straight out of the Brad Meldau catalog. By the time we settle into the title track, the group is indeed swinging and moving through the blues in an angular, supple manner without ever losing its sense of collective groove. Most radio-friendly of the bunch is the cheerful “Black Coffee,” which finds an irresistible burn thanks to Golubev and Madden. Simcock’s “Longing to Be,” “1981,” and Hamilton’s “Cry Me A River” all have their pleasures, but a highlight of *Blues Vignette* is certainly the trio’s work on Gershwin’s “Nice Work If You Can Get It,” which has as flexible a sense of tempo as you can imagine but which never stumbles. It is an exciting display of collective playing.

One can often hear the jazz side of Simcock’s musical influences Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, and the aforementioned Meldau, but Simcock never seems to copy or resort to musical cliches. The challenge in encountering Simcock’s prodigal talent is to listen with fresh ears to a full dose of musical ideas that are themselves quite new. There’s not much proper blues on *Blues Vignette*, of course, but the music is nevertheless bent in interesting new directions, and Simcock certainly understands the transformation of the blues: playing about feeling bad in order to feel good. Come to think of it, with some 130 minutes of music, the release is anything but a vignette; Simcock must be having a joke at his own expense, and the pianist and composer is all the more likable for the irony. Confident, smart, ambitious, *Blues Vignette* shows a young talent coming fully into his own and points the way for even better music to come.

185 Reads

**Gwilym Simcock Blues Vignette Basho Music - 2010** | [Login/Create an account](#) | Comments

Threshold  Thread  Oldest first  Refresh

Comments are owned by the poster. We aren't responsible for their content.

Username

Password

Remember me

[Log in](#)  
[Problems?](#)  
[New User?](#)  
[Sign Up!](#)

## EJAZZRADIO



Hosted by  
Bill King

<b>Email Login</b> <input type="text"/>
<b>Password</b> <input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Login"/> <input type="button" value="New users&lt;br/&gt;&lt;b&gt;sign up!&lt;/b&gt;"/>

#### Who's Online

We have 76 guests and 0 members online

Welcome Guest, become a [member](#) today.

#### Past Articles

##### **Wednesday, July 28**

- [We Read the Morning Papers](#) (o)

##### **Sunday, July 25**

- [Swing! / Episode 2 - "Birth of the Big Bands"](#) (o)
- [Carlos Villoslada, "Tabanqueando en la Plaza Nina"](#) (o)
- [Berklee College of Music and ParkARTS Presents Jazz at the Fort](#) (o)
- [Beavin Lawrence, "Infinite Possibilities"](#) (o)

##### **Friday, July 23**

- [RIP Harry Beckett \(1935-2010\)](#) (o)
- [Download charts from The Clayton Brothers' new recording!](#) (o)
- [Amos Bros Media Announce Their New Line Of Mini Jazz Documentaries](#) (o)

##### **Thursday, July 22**

- [Beaches International Jazz Festival - year 22..](#) (o)
- [New Jazz Book Includes Trumpeters Rapp, Blanchard, Soloff, Hubbard, Botti...](#) (o)

##### **Older Articles**

Hosted by [Ourgig.com](http://Ourgig.com)

[Contact eJazzNews.com](http://Contact eJazzNews.com)