

CITY NEWSPAPER

Gwilym Simcock "Blues Vignette"

Basho Records

By [Ron Netsky](#) on November 4, 2010

Gwilym Simcock has found a way to distinguish himself in the crowded international jazz world. The 28-year old British pianist recently released "Blues Vignette," a two-album set. Disc 1 showcases his dazzling solo work and a gorgeous suite for cello and piano, while Disc 2 finds him in a trio setting.

Two CDs are hardly enough to contain Simcock's talent. With influences ranging from jazz improvisers Keith Jarrett and John Taylor to classical composers Maurice Ravel and Igor Stravinsky, Simcock is all over the musical spectrum, but he manages to weave it all together into a seamless program. In just the first three tunes he demonstrates extraordinary compositional skill ("Little People"), explores the second movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto and pulls off a wild rendition of "On Broadway."

With excellent supporting players --- Yuri Goloubev on bass, James Maddren on drums, and Cara Berridge on cello --- Simcock occupies a wonderful place between the worlds of jazz and classical music. He can surely swing, but he can also write and play some of the most sensitive music available in any idiom.