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Tom Baker Quartet
Look What I Found
Present Sounds Recordings

by Eddie Becton

Jazz musicians often reject media-imposed musical categories and descriptors. Even some of the world's greatest artists such as Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis abhorred having others codify their music. Guitarist Tom Baker may very well fall into the category of one who rejects "conventional" jazz standards. His latest release, *Look What I Found*, is a collection of boundary-stretching melodies, harmonies and lines. At times, it conjures-up the tonal quality of Ornette Coleman and Pat Metheny's *Song X* and at others, the free-flowing compositional style of pianist Dave Fox. "Grace" has a whimsical quality about it, which suggests Baker is unafraid of challenging convention – what music ostensibly should be. As well, "Through a Glass Abstractly" could easily be incorporated as a soundtrack into a spooky Bela Lugosi film, its tension created by the interaction between Baker's guitar gymnastics and Jesse Canterbury's haunting yet ethereal clarinet notes. Amidst the musical storm, "Family of Four" is a soothing tune that features Canterbury's pensive, melodic lines. The aural conversation largely involves Canterbury, Baker, and bassist Brian Cobb, the latter providing deep bass lines that enhance the tune's cerebral quality. At times, Baker's quartet pushes the musical envelope, while at others, the foursome calm the nerves as in the superb track "Swampled." The introduction is fiery and explosive, but soon gives way to Canterbury's mellifluous clarinet. For listeners who enjoy freedom of musical expression and unpredictable rhythms, *Look What I Found* will be widely embraced. Creative, free, and, at times, funky, this session is likely to resonate with listeners who enjoy modern creative music.

Present Sounds on the web: www.presentsounds.com

Track Listing: Swampled/Waiting Room/Grace/Through a Glass Abstractly/Family of Four/Song for Ludmilla/Anton and Louis/Free Steps/Metamorphosis Happens/Dancing in the Ether.

Personnel: Tom Baker – guitar; Jesse Canterbury – clarinet, bass clarinet; Greg Campbell – drums, percussion; Brian Cobb – bass.