

## **Northeast Performer Magazine**

### **Review of From Down There CD (Nov. 2001)**

**The Pablo Ablanedo Octet** is hot. That's is the simplest way to describe **From Down There**, the group's recently released disk of nine numbers, eight of which were composed by **Ablanedo**. However, to describe the octet in simple terms is to do the group a disservice, because their performances on **From Down There** are exiting, complex, intricate and fun.

With an eclectic group of instrumentalist that is as diverse as it is musically, **Ablanedo** -a native of Argentina with a background in classical piano- provides the members of his octet with works that bring out the best in them as soloist and as an ensemble. This quality is evident from the first number, which is also the title track. A catchy piano tune with Latin-influenced rhythms segues into a section featuring **Avishai Cohen** on trumpet and **Anat Cohen** on saxophone. This duet between the Cohen siblings is conversational in style and indicative of the fact that these young musicians grew up performing together.

**Ablanedo's** instrumentation is a large part of what makes his octet so unique, and the violin and clarinet duet in "**Para Dejar**" provides a sterling example of the composer's sense of innovation. The strikingly different textures of these instruments, unusual in the jazz idiom, make this piece a standout on the disk.

"**El Acecho**" is the disk busiest number, one reminiscent of swing but with a slightly off-killer rhythm. The fourth and ninth tracks on **From Down There**, both entitled "**Dreaming**" are beautifully connected. The opening soprano saxophone solo of the fourth track is identical to the a cappella ninth track, sung in a haunting, soulful voice **Katie Viqueira**. the Spanish lyrics, also by **Ablanedo**, convey the composer's belief in the oneness of music and nature and provide an eloquent way to close the disc.

**-Katie DeBonville**