

BOPNDICK'S 10 PICKS

By Dick Crockett "The Voice" 88.7fm

Elio Villafranca has the soul of Bobbie Timmons with mind blowing technique and the pacing of a Cuban piano troubadour. There's much great and sublime Latin post bop dignity here as Dizzy, levitating with Chano Pozo, and James Moody and Kenny Barron below on the bar room floor of bebop and Latin mysticism.

This is Villafranca now with saxophonist Eric Alexander whose scintillating smoky solo on "The Source In Between" is what pure 'stuff' is made of....Alexander has the bona fide of one of today's major jazz tenor saxophonists. And as one skirts with a delicacy of Bill Evans, then "The Lonely One" comes forward with Villafranca becoming simple, lyrical and very delicate as spring rain. "Oddua Suite" is a light dirge suite of mourning civil war veterans, which it's not, so transpose your own heroic journey. Villafranca gets right to the 'common man' core in this tune. There's so much of 'it' in this majestic tune. "Three Plus One" has a contemporary Monk signature and Elio Villafranca just swings with drummer Dafnis Prieto, his explosive self! Then "In The Dark" reaches a doux pop romance seductive noir with a Pharoah Sanders twist- all most compendium. "Resurrection Of The Incapacitated" is Timmons with Shorter-esque writing skill. In fact the arrangements throughout this cd are very progressive.

I have hot flashes of the Minor Key in Detroit and a very cerebral Art Blakey Jazz Messengers with Wayne Shorter as music director.

That was the early sixties.

"The Source In Between" is a state of the art of where Elio Villafranca is right on message.

So be the first in your neighborhood.