

# Jonny King

## Quotes

### General Reviews

"Pianist Jonny King represents the best of what jazz has to offer in the 90s. Well-educated, urbane and articulate, King translates his intelligence into sophisticated and finely-wrought performances and compositions."

Sid Gribetz, JazzTimes

"...the acute instincts and the easy touch of a well-schooled natural."

The New Yorker

"He's a thinkers' composer and pianist, a young mainstream musician whose work is subtle and as such respected by musicians."

Peter Watrous, The New York Times

"King must have discovered early in life the full ramifications of the fact that the piano is a percussion instrument, since his touch and attack on the keys are a marvel of precision, variation and sensuality. King's compositions are first-rate, serious jazz works."

John Payne, Harvard Magazine

"...tremendously, talented pianist..."

The Houston Post

### *Above All*

\* \* \* \* 1/2 " ... recognized for his gifts as a composer... everything comes together so well...the poignant 'Above All,' a rich ballad dedicated to his late father that changes its mood from melancholy to joy...His intricate 'Lullaby for Cecelia' is a shimmering waltz, while 'Like It Is' is a compelling blend of funk and Latin ... Recommended."

Ken Dryden, AllMusic.com

"...an incredibly distinctive voice for modern jazz. A far cry from the stereotypical piano trio ... 'Above All' is a lovely tribute and captivating piece showcasing King's rare gift... King's ability to manipulate dynamics for powerful effect is indeed a thing of beauty. 'The Silver Lining' is indicative of the deep rich sonic color palette from which King creates. A deceptively subtle swing combined with a more direct harmonic sense of purpose highlights this formidable trio as well as any of the eleven tunes found on this most solid release. Far from just another piano trio, Above All welcomes the return of Jonny King with a recording that quickly finds a place in the memorable pile for 2012!"

Brent Black, CriticalJazz.com

"This Sunnyside debut...is most welcome... The title track is an introspective and haunting ballad that he wrote in tribute after his father died in 2009. 'Spindrift' is an uptempo burner. 'Neither Here Nor There,' written for the late Tony Reedus, swings mightily. 'Catharsis' and 'The Silver Lining' are also gems. There is much to dig here."

Ken Franckling's Jazz Notes

## *The Meltdown*

"'The Meltdown' reminds us that King is an excellent pianist and perhaps the best of the young composers."

Bob Blumenthal, Boston Globe

"The tunes are consistently provocative...and filled with startling twists and turns in virtually every piece..."

Don Heckman, LA Times

"Pianist and composer King defies neat classification since his eclectic stylings open the spectral varieties of versatile expression."

Ron Welburn, JazzTimes

"The Meltdown's nine originals and two standards are filled with lyricism, swing and passion."

Ken Franckling, UPI Arts & Entertainment

"Pianist and composer Jonny King has come up with a winning sequel to last year's Notes From the Underground...King, heard in a larger, more percussive setting this time out, makes

the sort of logical-yet-edgy postbop you'd expect from a brainy guy who's in touch with his feelings."

Gene Kalbacher, CMJ Music Report

"King who just released a strong album, is a prime exponent of the experimental mainstream in jazz. His compositions, unusual in their structure, force improvisers to think."

Peter Watrous, The New York Times

"Like King's two earlier CDs - "The Meltdown" features mostly well-crafted originals by the leader, who successfully melds a modern dissonant edge with compelling lyricism. Here though, the tunes are even a shade warmer...This is easily his best record..."

Zan Stewart, Stereophile

## *Notes From The Underground*

\* \* \* \* 1/2 "One of the best rushes in jazz is when you hear a band like Jonny King's for the first time and instantly know you have found something truly exceptional. The fires of inner necessity illuminate both tone poems ("Soliloquy") and hard stuff ("Caffeine") alike... King's playing is fiercely percussive, with left-hand accents that clang like Monk's, and a right hand that rains startling clusters, all connected... Notes From the Underground marks him as one of the strongest piano voices of the new generation, and a bandleader who kicks ass."

Thomas Conrad, Downbeat

"King and company manage to arrive at new and fascinating destinations. What makes this disc even more impressive is King's piano work, which has a mature and individualistic touch... a logical sense of melodic development and beauty."

Jazz and Blues

"...his second album, Notes From the Underground, is the work of a complex, but lucid pianist...King writes some of the best and most intriguing post-bop tunes of musicians in his peer group, music with mood and content that invite repeated listening."

Peter Hum, Ottawa Citizen

"Following a sterling debut for Criss Cross, King has jumped ship to Enja for this heady neobop quintet session. Having performed in Joshua Redman's quintet, King taps the tenor/soprano saxist to front a crack rhythm section...but make no mistake this is King's show, and his six original compositions carry the day, unfolding in inventive yet unpredictable ways..."

Gene Kolbacher, CMJ