

NEW ISSUES

the lodestar for the band. She speaks through her horn with a dramatic whisper, akin to Lauren Bacall's voice. The way Weisz croons the melody of Monk's "Pannonica" is flat out gorgeous. Then she steps aside and lets Parrott elaborate. For her part Bailey improvises with abandon. She likes to start and end her phrases at unexpected junctures creating a sense of dislocation. Not that the leader eschews improvisation. Her best outing, on "Moon Song," has her employing a plunger mute in the lyrical manner of Quentin "Butter" Jackson. The mute serves to accentuate her sweet turns of phrase. As with previous sessions the leader does a good job of mixing originals by herself and Bailey with some lesser-known songs, like "Moon Song" and Jobim's "Zingaro." She ties these together with three variations of her own "TRIO" theme. Clearly in addition to her skills as a trombonist, composer and bandleader, she's a great producer as well.

David Dupont

Laura Toxvaerd

NO. 1

ILK 127

*SPINE SIDE / TINSOLDAT /
ALBERT / POPNUMMER /
TINDOLDAT II / INFERNO /
PANGOLIN / INFERNO II /
HOVEDLOEST HALEFALD /
POPNUMMER II / STANDARD
INTRO / INCENSE / VIRTUOSITY
/ RIVAL / STANDARD OUTRO.*
27:47.

Laura Toxvaerd, as. July 1, 2004,
Copenhagen, Denmark.

Alto saxophonist Laura Toxvaerd gets silly with her multi-tracked instrumental lines as she delivers a unique demonstration of versatility. By combining noise with tones and melodic fragments, she's riding the fence between the Classical saxophone quartet tradition and the Hip-Hop world of rhythm through noise. Every sound that appears on her album comes from her alto sax; however, that's quite an array. By tweaking the sound electronically and by producing known effects such as pad-slapping and squawking, Toxvaerd creates quite a storm. No wonder she's entitled one of her creations "Inferno."

All tracks on this brief album are by the artist. She produced the first ten selections in a studio and followed with the album's final five tracks at a concert performance. The direction changes continually, maintaining cohesion from one piece to the next as Toxvaerd slips and slides fluidly. Her bright alto tone comes with the tradition espoused by Charlie Parker, but she's added sufficient electronics to the album to place her in a class all by herself.

From Herlev, Denmark, the 30-year-old saxophonist represents ILK (Independent Label of Copenhagen) with ambitions of the creative Avant-Garde. Her acoustic concert performance and her electronic studio session combine to reveal one unique persona. She loves to apply multi-phonics to her presentation, allowing the tone to split freely. This tone distortion gives Toxvaerd something in common with many modern Punk and Rock singers who like to tax their vocal chords to the limit. With this saxophonist, however, there seems to be no limit to the extent that her instrumental wails, moans, squeaks and groans will carry her.

Jim Santella