

STOCK - Rhythms Review March 2020

Julien Wilson

Stock

Lionsharerecords/Planet

Both the quartet and its self-titled, long overdue debut album cast a spell from the ethereal global hues of a short opening piece - the first of four atmospheric band compositions that reference natural phenomena linked with witchcraft and sorcery.

Melbourne saxophone supremo Julien Wilson's two cornerstone 10-minute plus creations have more of a kaleidoscopic, cavalier quality and improvisatory feel. Both commence as melodic and breathy ballads eliciting the lauded tonal qualities of the leader's tenor sax playing, before morphing into more adventurous rock-nudging sonic territory, aided and abetted by co-lead Craig Fermanis's intricate electric guitar work, Christopher Hale's bass guitar and Hugh Harvey's drumming.

Wilson's clarinet lends another self-composed work a wistful hymn-like quality. His soprano sax runs blow brooding Arabesque feel into the set's arresting curtain-closer.

Tony Hillier