

STOCK - The Australian March 21st 2020

JAZZ
STOCK
JULIEN WILSON

Lionsharerecords

On first hearing this album, I recalled what legendary Melbourne musician Ade Monsborough once said: "Jazz is a cry of anguish from the heart". Father Ade was of course a traditionalist, while the members of Stock are modernists, on a mission to stretch the boundaries of the music. What unites them all, however, is expressiveness, sometimes of the darker sides of life.

Melbourne saxophonist Julien Wilson's composition, *Too Soon*, is sadness incarnate, dedicated to two friends who died prematurely. Three of the seven tracks are orthodox compositions from Wilson, while the other four are beautiful exercises in what appears to be free improvisation from the quartet, including Craig Fermanis (electric guitar), Christopher Hale (bass guitar) and Hugh Harvey (drums).

Free jazz makes most sense when one can identify an organising principle, and here it is cohesion, a joy to behold.

Eric Myers