

## Art Hirahara: Central Line

If Emerson is to be believed in that "The ancestor of every action is a thought" there is plenty to show that pianist Art Hirahara is a "thinking" pianist with a talent for unfolding the thought into profoundly suggestive music in a dark-hued era. The pianist hosts the sensitivity, concentrated wit and energy of bassist Linda Oh, Drummer Rudy Royston and saxophonist Donny McCaslin in a programme that swings unambiguously. *Central Line*



despite its linear suggestion, ducks and weaves through 14 melodies that Hirahara plays with an imaginative insight and delicacy given to few pianists. He wears his wisdom lightly using it to weave magically from innocence to experience, to magically evoke the balletic grace of Japanese tradition and the candlelit sensuality of Brazilian music with profound beauty. Similarly, Hirahara brings the generosity and ebullient swing of Jazz to each of his eleven original compositions. Melodies are thrown off with superb grandeur and in each of

the songs Hirahara combines virtuoso stateliness with an ever-enlightening sensitivity and perception. The patrician poise of his playing on "Kurodi Bushi" highlights Art Hirahara's quietly cool and unique musicianship best on a disc brimful with introverted masterpieces.

Track List – 1: Central Line; 2: Kuroda Bushi; 4: Astray; 5: Drawing with Light; 6: Introspect; 7: Little Giant; 8: The Giant Catfish; 9: Sensitive Animal; 10: Tracing The Line; 11: Entanglement; 12: As Minhas Meninas; 13: Redwood Thaw; 14: Kin-Ka; 15: Gold Coin; 16: Yuyake Koyake.

Personnel – Art Hirahara: piano; Linda Oh: bass; Rudy Royston: drums; Donny McCaslin: piano.