

JazzCorner News

Dutch band Taconieuwenhuizen Group rides improvisational highs on debut album 'Playtime'



Written by Robert Sutton.

For the Dutch band Taconieuwenhuizen Group, *Playtime* is serious business. Well, musically speaking, that is. Featuring bassist/vocalist Taco Nieuwenhuizen, drummer Taco Gorter, saxophonist Joao Driessen, guitarist Daniel de Moraes, percussionist Bart Fermie, and keyboardist Rein Godefroy, the band has just released its debut album, *Playtime*, which finds itself on the more rhythmic side of jazz. As improvisation-fueled groove kings, Taconieuwenhuizen Group certainly deliver the goods, delivering a record with cage-rattling energy and positive vibrations. The soulful depth and funky swagger of Nieuwenhuizen's bass playing is already evident on the first cut, "Free Men 1." Nieuwenhuizen's stinging bass lines puncture the speakers and shake the floor. Nieuwenhuizen's bass sounds so alive and active that it seems like he is wrestling with a slippery, rambunctious animal. Yes, Nieuwenhuizen is that talented and creative. He's versatile as well. On "Mr. Z," Nieuwenhuizen settles for a relaxing, sunny afternoon tone - at first. As his bass thumps quietly, the music picks up speed and volume when Driessen's saxophone explodes like firecrackers. Welcome to the imaginative, experimental world of European jazz, which Taconieuwenhuizen Group embodies. Those who are burnt out on much stateside jazz, with its cookie-cutter compromises to jazz radio, will find much to savor here. On "Come & Go," Taconieuwenhuizen Group enters world-music territory, and it's sweetened by swirling saxophone, hypnotizing bass, and dreamy keyboards. Taconieuwenhuizen's soft-spoken voice gives "Turn Me On" pop accessibility; however, the track's infectious funky beat, led by Taconieuwenhuizen's throbbing bass, gives it substance that you won't hear on FM stations these days. Taconieuwenhuizen Group just formed in 2009, but the chemistry between them suggests players who have been together for a considerable amount of time. It's obvious that these musicians were destined to be with one another. *Playtime* is the rare first album that has the consistent high quality of a career retrospective best-of.

More Information: <http://www.taconieuwenhuizengroup.com>