

Mittelland Zeitung MZ
(Switzerland)
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Piano – Piano

It's a well-known fact that solo recordings are extremely hard to market. Pianists especially will be compared to Keith Jarrett and his gorgeous output (Jarrett on the other hand sells well). But Jarrett is not at all a true handicap for Armenian-American melody and sound addict Armen Donelian. His approach is grown entirely on his own soil, i.e. original and individualistic, not to be compared with anybody else. *Full Moon Music – Free Improvisations for Solo Piano* is the long-awaited closer of the inspired and colorful trilogy *Grand Ideas* that drew the attention of Donelian fans before with *Wave* (Standards) and *Mystic Heights* (Original Compositions). Also, famous pianists like Kenny Barron and Fred Hersch are filled with praise for Donelian's utterly original jazz art (see booklet in the *Full Moon Music* CD). This music, completely improvised on the spur of the moment, is the art of an open-minded and always curious artist covering – in an extremely substantial *tour d'horizon* – the history of jazz piano as well as aspects of contemporary (classical) piano music. I'm sure that even Keith Jarrett will welcome Donelian's CDs as a challenge and a bag full of inspiration!

JÜRGEN SOMMER

Armen Donelian: *Wave/Mystic Heights/Full Moon Music*
(all distributed by Sunnyside/Plainisphere)