

BARRY WALLENSTEIN LUCKY THESE DAYS: POETRY AND MUSIC
CADENCE JAZZ 1242 LUCKY THESE DAYS/ PHONE CALLS TO MAKE/ THE
MAFIA WAS ON STRIKE; GO ASK PACOS/ JACK THE HAT/ THE DEVIL
STRIKES AGAIN & INSIDE MY HEAD: DEVIL DESIGN/ WHAT'S NOW/ IN
THESE TIMES: CHARITY/ SEX GHAZAL/ THE EXCESSES OF ADVANCING
AGE & THE OLD MAN/ THE NIGHTMARE & ANGER, A PERSONAL
HISTORY/ LISTENING Barry Wallenstein, poetry and vcl; Adam Birnbaum, p;
Vincent Chancey, Fr hn; Neal Haiduck cl; Erik Lawrence as; Mike Richmond, bass
Paramus N.J. June 21, 2011 New Issues

I love the idea of improvising music to poetry. The idea goes way back. I still have my album of Kerouac reading with Al Cohn's sax. In order for the project to work you need two things: Good poetry and good music, where the music has to fit the music. The project should work even if one does not carefully listen to the words, but thinks of the voice as a lead instrument that the others are working off. The poetry is good. Lots of fun. And the folder has the text of almost all the poems so the listener can follow. Wallenstein's articulation is clear and easy to follow. My problem is that I start listening to the music and don't get all the poetry, so I was glad to have the text. The feelings and tempos vary, as do the lead instruments, so each poem stands out. All the musicians get solo space and all do a great job. I especially liked Richmond's solo on "Lucky," Birnbaum's solo on "Jack," the duet by Chancey and Haiduck on "Devil," and everyone on "sex." A fun record. Recommended for anyone who likes poetry with their music.

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