

## JAZZ TIMES REVIEW

### NOUVEAU STRIDE, *FOURTEEN*

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Some might argue that Lorraine Feather has never met a stride pianist she didn't like, but Feather's intense enthusiasm for Stephanie Trick, her partner in the freshly minted Nouveau Stride, is fully justified. Indeed, first-time listeners to *Fourteen* are advised to proceed directly to Track 10, Trick's solo romp through J.P. Johnson's "Carolina Shout," to appreciate the young St. Louisan's prowess. The 13 remaining tracks all feature Feather's deliciously clever wordplay.

Johnson is the album's cornerstone. His "Mule Walk" is transformed into "Bat Boogie," an homage to winged rodents, his "Keep Off the Grass" is reinvented as the gleeful "Rules of the Park," and his "Caprice Rag" is reimagined as "Pour on the Heat," a sort of *Stride Lyrics for Dummies* primer. Feather and Trick also draw from the songbooks of lesser-known ragtime tunesmiths Robin Frost and Artie Matthews, turn Willie "The Lion" Smith's "Spanish Rag" into the fiery "The Tango Lesson," and bring the proceedings more up-to-date with the wittily saccharine "Dreamily" and breakneck "The Ride," both based on works by pianist John Novacek.

Rounding out the playlist are selections that Feather fans will recognize from earlier projects. "Timeless Rag," "New York City Drag" and "California Street," all based on Fats Waller tunes, were included on her 2001 Waller salute, and the wonderfully witty "Imaginary Guy," based on Duke Ellington's "Dancers in Love," first showed up on 2004's *Such Sweet Thunder*. If nothing else, they demonstrate how favorably Trick compares to Dick Hyman, Mike Lang and Shelly Berg, Feather's estimable accompanists from those previous outings.

- Christopher Loudon