

# DOWNBEAT

June 2015

## John Fedchock Quartet *Fluidity*

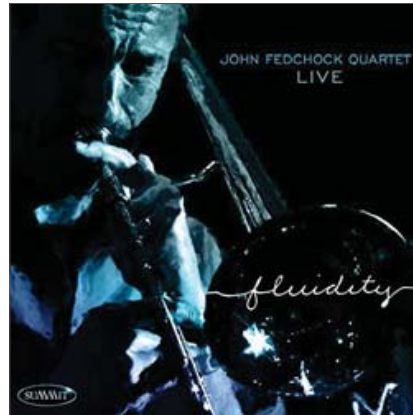
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★★★★★

Trombonist John Fedchock has been making his recorded case for virtuoso status for 20 years at least. He's a Woody Herman alumnus, and hearing him expertly navigate the tight corners and hurdles of the bebop charts in this live date brings to mind an earlier time. No modal space odysseys or free-jazz freakouts for him.

Fedchock cements his reputation here as a swinger and heartfelt balladeer. For this album, he headed a quartet at the Havana Nights club in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 2013. Aside from Fedchock originals "Under The Radar" and "Havana," the fare is familiar. Local pianist John Toomey, a talent deserving wider recognition, leads the rhythm section. He gets under the soloists and plays wry asides that always boost the music. New York drummer Dave Ratajczak covers everything from whispering brushes ("East Of The Sun") to peppery sticks on an upbeat arrangement of "Days Of Wine And Roses." Fedchock is a soulful player, too; his turn on "Make Someone Happy" almost aches. He also loves to play changes and swing. The complexities in Joe Henderson's "Homestretch" get such a thorough workout that one wonders how the trombonist would have sounded next to Clifford Brown. An album of trombone leads and solos might not be everyone's cup of tea, but in Fedchock's hands this music is fairly timeless.

—Kirk Silsbee



**Fluidity:** East Of The Sun; Havana; I Hear A Rhapsody; Make Someone Happy; Under The Radar; Weaver Of Dreams; The Days Of Wine And Roses; I've Never Been In Love Before; Homestretch. (71:04)

**Personnel:** John Fedchock, trombone; John Toomey, piano; Jimmy Masters, bass; Dave Ratajczak, drums.

**Ordering info:** [summitrecords.com](http://summitrecords.com)