

**Andréa Petrity "It's About Time" CD Release Concert
November 21, 2014
National Music Centre
Reviewed by Sheila Thistlethwaite**

The sound of surprise is often what jazz fans crave most. At this CD release concert by Calgary pianist, composer and arranger **Andréa Petrity**, the very first note of the opening title track from the CD "It's About Time" struck the tone for a satisfying musical experience. It was clear from that point onward that each piece, whether an original or an arrangement, had been worked on lovingly and thoughtfully, to find and express its essence.

It's About Time is a gorgeously crafted structure with a teasing, fragile melody over an insistent beat that lets the listener wander and then pulls us back, over and over.

With her arrangement of an old favourite we rarely hear anymore, *Harlem Nocturne*, Petrity dug into the groove hard and propelled it onward and upward by building in new elements and patterns, her fellow players bassist **Stefano Valdo** and drummer **Robin Tufts** flying full force alongside her. So accustomed am I to hearing this tune on saxophone, it was a surprise (again) to see tenor saxman **Pat Belliveau** sitting this one out. But the arrangement did not seem to suffer from lack of sax; instead, it resonated with a fresh depth and richness.

Before beginning *Szerettem Egy Barna Kislányt (Brown Skin Girl)*, Petrity explained that she had taken the soulful Hungarian folk tune far into a jazzy realm to the point where it was barely recognizable. As with many of the tunes selected for this concert, the varied textures and grooves inspired some impressive solos, in this case, warm melodic bursts from Belliveau, that at times were achingly evocative.

The quartet began the second set with the very swinging *P.M.S.*, named after Petrity's bass and guitar heroes John Patitucci, Pat Metheny and John Scofield. It was another opportunity to observe the flow of the musical conversation taking place among the players. They were into it to the nth degree. Individually and collectively, they positively shone. This concert felt as if it had a bit of magic to it

As a player, Andréa Petrity sparkles. With this CD, she has shown that she also is a distinctive writer and arranger. If we don't hear more from her soon, there is something wrong with the music world.