



JAZZ: ALEX HUTTON TRIO: SONGS FROM THE SEVEN HILLS

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THE pianist's second album is a suite inspired by his memories of growing up in Sheffield. It has a pleasing sense of narrative flow as it unfolds, and his use of fragments of repeating melodic and harmonic figures add to that sense of continuity. His approach suggests the influence of Keith Jarrett and McCoy Tyner, and his approach to building and developing melodies from very simple beginnings has already elicited comparisons with the late Esbjörn Svensson.

The music is quite classical in places, evoking the pictorialism of the English pastoral school in the reflective *Going Home* or *Old Roman Road*. They dig more openly into energised jazz idioms on *Autumn Fires* or *Seventh Hill*. Bassist Michael Janisch (familiar here from his work with Tommy Smith and Paul Townsend) and drummer Enzo Zirelli make powerful contributions to the shaping of a fine album.