

BLINDFOLD TEST: Reggie Workman

For Contemporary Musicians

downbeat

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TENOR TROVE

by Frank-John Hadley

JED LEVY: GOOD PEOPLE (Reservoir 105) ★★★½

Jed Levy's *Good People* is a hot debut album. Levy, a New Yorker who has worked alongside Jack Walrath, Don Patterson, and Jack McDuff, projects a strong sound and evidences awareness of various tenor heroes without stamping himself with the copycat label. The 30-ish tenorman brings blossoming eloquence of thinking and feeling to four original songs, *Just In Time*, and Ellington and Strayhorn's ballad *Daydream*. Only *Jenkuja*, which lasts more than 11 minutes, disappoints due to marginally tedious soloing by bassist Rufus Reid (an acquaintance) and guitarist Peter Leitch (a frequent musical cohort and friend), tiresome statements by Levy, and enough-already divagations by pianist Peter Madsen (a second cohort/friend). Levy's "good people" are better everywhere else; drummer Billy Hart (another acquaintance/good person and, like Reid, a seasoned player) stays alert throughout the album.