



Charles Hutchinson, *Jazz Now Magazine*

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Conceptually, *Swimming Lessons* sounds very European, or at least it has the kind of Europeanism that informed the ECM label in the seventies and the eighties; there's an airy lyricism and reflectiveness in the eight original compositions here, inspired variously by mythology and Hindemith tone-rows. As a pianist, Perla is a study of appealing contrasts, capable for instance, of both delicacy and rhythmic thrust in the same piece; it's also not unusual to hear him pause pensively in the middle of a phrase and then make the concluding notes sing out. Harvey Wainapel's saxophones convey a suitably yearning quality throughout, and guitarist Andre Bush can be expected to lend an occasional touch of grittiness to the proceedings. Perla, on the evidence here, is a remarkably assured and mature young musician who deserves to be heard more frequently.