



Kosmic Music Management LLC

wadadaleosmith.com

kosmicmusic@wadadaleosmith.com

Wadada Leo Smith - Press Quotes

"Leo Smith is a remarkable young trumpet player and percussionist..."

--- Peter Occhiogrosso, Soho Weekly News

"Leo Smith is a trumpeter and composer at the forefront of the New Creative Music..."

--- Bob Ness, Down Beat

"Leo Smith is the poet of the AACM."

--- Bob Blumenthal, Down Beat

"Leo Smith is one of the most vital musicians on the planet today ... To say that Smith is a highly original player would be an understatement."

--- Bill Shoemaker, Coda

"Smith's trumpet mastery is unquestionable..."

--- Litweiler, Down Beat

"Smith's horn style is saturated with the history of the modern jazz trumpet... There is much of Miles Davis in Smith's playing of the "silences"... and there are deep shades of Fats Navarro in Smith's essentially "melodic", lyrical, even "classical" technique which remains firmly grounded in traditional ideas of tonal "beauty".

--- Thomas Albright., San Francisco Chronicle

"Mr. Smith is a careful improviser... in this idiom (shifting instrumental colors and thematically oriented improvisations) Mr. Smith has few peers..."

--- Robert Palmer, New York Times

"There is a remarkable cleanliness to Smith's music."

--- Gary Giddens, Village Voice

"Equally heavy, though much more rewarding, was the solo trumpet set by Wadada Leo Smith. He has such a commanding mastery of delicate forms that the organic waves of sound he created turned everyone's heads inside out. During his two sets, the big room took on the feel of a religious retreat, and rivers of karmic goodness flowed like the purest honey."

---BENOIT CHAPUT & BYRON COLEY, The Wire

"It worked especially well when, for the final work, the great improv trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith blazed his way through his Tao-Njia with the ensemble in hot pursuit: sinuous, smoky waves of sound freely bending, darting off in immaculately controlled explosions ending (as doesn't always happen in new music) far too soon against the audience's hopes."

--- Alan Rich, LA Weekly

"As usual, Smith surrounds his carefully measured melodic statements with the judicious use of silence. Few trumpeters of the modern era have equaled his seamless marriage of lyricism, especially when he uses a mute. and extended technique - the sour smears, blubbery effects - sometimes combined in the same phrase. He uses electronics to alter his sere tone, thickening his striated cries or enhancing their brittleness."

--- Peter Margasak, Downbeat

"Leo Smith's concert was one of the L.A. area's finest jazz events that year, ... Electro-acoustic timbres and shifting relationships of structure and improvisation conspired toward a refreshing new entity in the jazz scene, with echoes of

'70s Miles electric-jazz voodoo, AACM ideals and something new and personal."

--- Josef Woodard, Jazz Times

"Smith is working at his highest level since the mid '70s. This quartet - with its combination of maturity, craftsmanship, and sense of adventure - is the perfect band to realize Smith's deepening vision."

--- Ed Hazell, Boston Globe

"Smith, in his 60s, is not only as inventive and adventurous as he was when he was a younger player, but his creativity and ability to direct a band into new territory is actually farther reaching than ever before. This is brilliant work."

--- Thom Jurek, All Music guide

"Wadada Leo Smith is best known as a trumpeter with a huge reach, a singular sound thinker whose interrogating approach to the instrument - blowing into the bell, playing with just the mouthpiece, building in the sound of the valves - has pushed the instrument into whole new areas."

--- David Kennan, Sunday Herald

"Smith elicits a symphony of sounds from his trumpet."

--- Steve Greenlee, jazztimes.com

"A consistently adventurous trumpeter who has stuck to playing avant-garde jazz throughout his career."

--- Scott Yanow, allmusic.com

"Wadada Leo Smith spans everything. He is lyrical, intense, soaring, powerful, meditative, hard, soft, deep ... and offering lots of space to the other players."

--- Stef Gijsells, freejazzblogspot.com

"A venerable vanguard rebel for four decades, trumpeter/composer Wadada Leo Smith shows his cutting-edge artistry remains razor sharp... graced with crackling technique, free expression and passion for the beautiful and the spiritual."

--- Owen McNally, The Hartford Courant

"This veteran of the creative music scene who has played with Ornette Coleman, Anthony Braxton and Cecil Taylor stokes the vision which is shaped by the creative charts of the leader and the gems uncovered in the improvisations, which are both stirring and serene."

--- Paul Serralheiro, squidsear.com

"Smith makes his trumpet a clarion call for change."

--- Jerry D'Souza, allaboutjazz.com