

Reviewed by John Hasse.

At first glance, modern jazz such as that performed by Dave Brubeck might not seem to have much relation to folk music. However, traditional jazz, which developed in the early part of this century, was basically an urban folk music. Since then jazz has become much more complex; and yet still evident today are the strong roots of jazz in the Afro-American folk musical tradition. Witness, for example, the blue tonality and the antiphonal and responsorial forms which modern jazz has maintained from its antecedent, traditional jazz. And one could make a case that since jazz is mostly improvised, each jazz performance is a variant.

This album presents pianist Brubeck and his three sons in a program of revitalized older material and some interesting new pieces. On both "Three to Get Ready" and "Blue Rondo a la Turk" the call and response device of "trading" measures between Brubeck and other soloists is used to good advantage. The latter number, on which violin, electric piano, guitar, and harmonica are to be heard, becomes an eclectic tour de force, with changes of meter, a walking bass section, and an electric blues section. The other highlight is "Thank You (Dziekuje)," a haunting ballad (in the popular-song sense of that term) which Brubeck plays as a piano solo.