

| X 3) From the opening salvo of *Plaything For Soul* the listener is snapped to attention. A crescendoing low hum abruptly shifts to high energy with Apuzzo's circular saxophone wail and the dual drum team of Orselli and guest Altamura stirring things underneath. Lalla enters with some high end bowing and the net effect is not unlike Ayler ca. *Bells*. What follows is 40 minutes of creative improvised music.

The Orselli/Apuzzo/Lalla trio saw fit to augment their group on three of the five tracks with various guests. I don't know why since this trio is strong enough to carry an entire album by themselves. That's not to say that the guests don't add something. Quite the contrary. Antonello Sallis' personal amalgam of Keith Jarrett spiced with Cecil Taylor fits in nicely on "Melodie Antiche." And on "Cythera" he almost steals the show with his dancing accordion obligatos behind Appuzzo's solo.

*Plaything For Soul* is chock full of strong playing and music that sticks with you after the needle has left the grooves. Highly recommended and worth seeking out. X