

## Julie Lamontagne Trio: Facing the Truth

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Effendi FND052

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★★★★☆☆

In the long line of gifted Montreal pianists, Julie Lamontagne is yet another name to reckon with. Classically trained but making a living in pop, she appears here in her jazz debut, accompanied by two able, equally evolving young players, bassist Dave Watts and drummer Richard Irwin. Together, they work as a well-calibrated unit, articulating theme statements and developing these in synchronous twists and turns, moving the music along together quite well, as in the Latin groove of "Day in Panama" or the drifting modality of "L'Alizée." Other note worthy tunes (all her originals) are "Facing the Truth", with its muscular intro and lyrical strains, and the Satiesque "Vagabonde". The whole disc evolves in a pleasing, listenable manner with hints of Bill Evans and Amhad Jamal, with something of a Chick Corea rhythmic drive added. All these varied stylings are coherently and organically integrated, making this a most promising debut. PS

*Off Festival de Jazz, June 26*

