

Critics and Musicians Are Talking about Hendrik Meurkens

“...one of the world’s leading exponents of the jazz harmonica...”

Marcela Breton, *JazzTimes*

“...he has a natural inclination for seeking out beauty, for breathing harmony of color into themes and extemporizations.”

Frank-John Hadley, *Downbeat*

“...his albums for Concord have more than established him as a major innovator...”

Mark Holston, *Jazziz*

“Meurkens has proved to be a unique player with his own sound and approach.”

Winslow T. Yerxa, *Harmonica Magazine*

“Hendrik Meurkens has secured a firm hold on second place behind Toots in the jazz world. He tackles the challenging material with apparent ease, coming up with fresh and very fluent statements.”

Scott Yanow, *Cadence*

“If you haven’t heard this eloquent jazz player, you’re missing out on one amazing aural experience.”

Brian Humeck, *JAM Magazine*

“He has a distinctively warm tone and his grasp of the basic bebop vernacular is thorough.”

Barry McRae, *Jazz Journal International*

“If Jazz has become a world music (and it has), then Meurkens is certainly a symbol of the music’s diverse cultural qualities...”

Nicholas Catalano, *Chelsea Clinton News*

“The ease with which Meurkens masters a chromatic harmonica is evident in the fluidity of his lines and phrasing.”

Nance Ann Lee – *Jazz & Blues Report*

“Meurkens comes out of Toots Thielemans but has his own things to say in an event more boopish mode.”

Ira Gitler *Jazz Times*

“With flawless intonation and time, and a deep bag of solo ideas, Meurkens could be favorably compared to the great Toots Thielemans and the best who’ve ever elevated the status of the ‘Mississippi saxophone.’”

Dan Emerson – *Pulse Magazine*, February, 2001

“Back in Brazil, I had the chance to work with Mauricio Einhorn and Riddo Hora (two top Brazilian harmonica players) and Toots Thielemans, and all I can say is Hendrik combines that Brazilian samba swing with Toot’s virtuosity. He’s an amazing musician.”

Nilson Matta

“Working on *Amazon River* let me even closer to the talents of Hendrik Meurkens. To be proficient on the harmonica is a milestone in itself. Blowing out produces one note, breathing in produces another. To play legato, to have fluidity and the proper dynamics in this difficult instrument means endless hours of dedication. Hendrik has an awesome technique, a great sense of improvisation and a very personal way of navigating complex harmonies. Adding to that is his wonderful artistry on the vibraphone, another instrument that Hendrik commands with great grace and expression. Yet another extra element of his talents is the way he plays Brazilian music. I strongly suspect that his soul was born somewhere among the trees and the rivers of Brazil, so native are his performances. I hope “Amazon River” will help disseminate the wonderful music that comes straight out of Hendrik’s heart. It will move you.”

Oscar Castro-Neves