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**COLIN VALLON TRIO**

RRUGA (ECM 274 9350). Colin Vallon (p); Patrice Moret (b); Samuel Rohrer (d). May 2010.

Swiss pianist Vallon (born Lausanne, 1980) has impressed me before with his intelligence of phrasing and keen dynamic sense. This, his debut for ECM, finds him offering trio music as robust as it is tender, with Vallon and his very well attuned compatriots drawing (transmuted) inspiration from sources as diverse as Bulgarian folk singing, the phrasing of Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Turkish melody and percussion. The result is an album rich in subtly unfolding dynamics and tempered yet potent drama, with what sound like occasional prepared piano effects (as on *Meral* and *Iskar*) integrated beautifully into the evolving post-Evans poetic whole. (Michael Tucker)