

Billboard

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Cure All

Robert Walter plays the Hammond organ the way it was meant to be played —bold and free-swinging. Though he also plays other keyboards on "Cure All," the Hammond is definitely the right tool for this trio album's juiced-up soul-jazz. Walter's vigorous attack is matched by the frisky, adept rhythm section of New Orleans mainstays James Singleton (bass) and Johnny Vidacovich (drums). Like Walter, they refuse to be restrained by boundaries, so this energetic set owes as much to the Meters as to Jimmy Smith. With the exception of an elastic cover of Boney M's "Rivers of Babylon," the songs are all originals, highlighted by the title track, a funky New Orleans march with attitude. The expansive "Parts and Holes" offers room for snappy solos, but mostly, these guys are locked in a three-way conversation that is almost always loud, colorful and illuminating.

—Wayne Robins