



Creative Loafing Tampa
April 16, 2008

Music: Spins

New CDs from R.E.M., The Raconteurs and Robert Walter

Accelerate, Consolers of the Lonely and Cure All

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Cure All

ROBERT WALTER

(Palmetto)

There's something intrinsically seductive about a Hammond organ backed by bass and drums. You don't have to be a jazz-o-phile to get it, but the format leaves lots of room for improvisational and harmonic exploration. New Orleans-based, jam-scene-affiliated Robert Walter is joined by legendary NOLA drummer Johnny Vidacovich and bassist James Singleton; collectively they bring the heavy funk, the second line, some rumba and shuffles and a bit of post-bop. Call it populist jazz -- Walter has a knack for writing gluey instrumental hooks. He's not a chops hound but has a way of finding those ear-pleasing soul notes. Walter also plays quite a bit of piano and Fender Rhodes (on one track), but his greatest facility is on the Hammond B-3. 3.5 stars --Eric Snider