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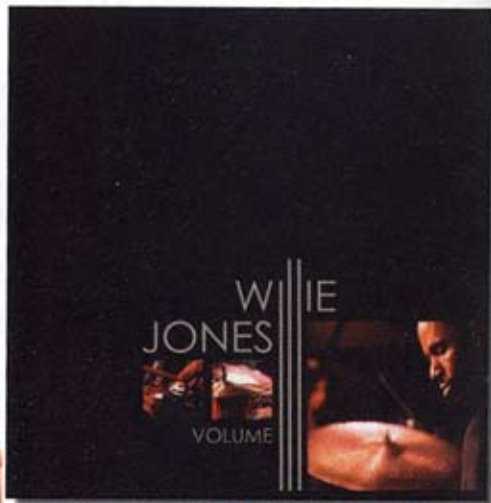
RECORDINGS

★★★★★ *Classic*
★★★★★ *Excellent*
★★★★★ *Good*
★★★★★ *Fair*
★★★★★ *Poor*

WILLIE JONES III VOLUME III

★★★★★

Jones earned big street cred while backing up jazz heavies and serving a long tenure with Roy Hargrove. But the gifted drummer soars highest as a leader on his own label. On this third outing, the pristine piano trio format brings out Jones' best. With discerning taste, melodicism, and absolute swing, Jones' crisp yet fluid attack finds an ideal complement in pianist **Eric Reed**'s exquisite touch. The opening track, "Shoulders," is a dazzler, showcasing Jones' stunning musicality as he outlines jackrabbit phrases. It's fun and splendid stuff, generously fueled by Jones' deeply satisfying swing. (WJ3) **Jeff Potter**



BREAK IT DOWN!

DRUM PHENOM