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Terence Blanchard: The Comedian — 'rhythmic edge'

The Grammy-winning composer's score for Robert De Niro's film evokes a nocturnal New York

APRIL 7, 2017 by: Mike Hobart

Terence Blanchard

The Comedian

(Blue Note)

The Grammy-winning trumpeter/composer returns to his jazz-renaissance roots with a set steeped in the glossy hues and tones of New York City at night. Blanchard's score for the soundtrack of Robert De Niro's new film captures a late-life crisis with jaunty blues, brooding balladry and svelte modern jazz. The mood-setting themes have strong melodies and rhythmic edge, and with saxophonist Ravi Coltrane stretching out and on-form pianist Kenny Barron leading a classy rhythm section, the jazz is for real. Blanchard pares his playing of excess, and plays beautifully.