

Joy in Spite of Everything, Stefano Bollani

reviewed by [Louis R. Carlozo](#) in the [November 26, 2014](#) issue

In Review



Joy in Spite of Everything

Stefano Bollani

ECM

Those who love Bill Evans or Art Blakey will relish this disc, though Stefano Bollani has his own freewheeling improv stamp. Recorded in one day, and featuring guitarist Bill Frisell, *Joy* pulses with live energy. Bollani pilots his piano with

sophisticated trills, rolls, and riffs. Colors run the gamut from the whimsical theme and bouncy beat of “No Pope No Party” to “Las Hortensias,” where Bollani hits the high keys to create the effect of a broken clock. Highly recommended.