



WARREN/STEFFAN

Duw A Wyr

(Babel)

*Old Welsh hymns remodelled
by a trio of jazz seers*

***** £13.99

THE WORK of vocalist Lleuwen Steffan, pianist Huw Warren and saxophonist Mark Lockheart, *Duw A Wyr* comprises jazz arrangements of such old Welsh hymns as 'Ebeneser', 'In Y Glyn' and 'Pen Calfaria'. On paper, admittedly, it doesn't sound that promising, but it has taken up residency in my head, oozing as it does poise and imagination. Steffan's haunting contralto is fine enough in itself, but the way in which Warren's piano and Lockheart's saxophone bring these bewitching melodies into the 21st century make it the most unusual, strangely beautiful album that you're likely to hear not only this year but the next.

(Stuart Nicholson)