

DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE (March 2003)
by Glen Astarita
ALEX SKOLNICK TRIO

Goodbye To Romance: Standards For A New Generation
(Skol Productions) ****1/2

Guitarist Alex Skolnick gained notoriety with hard rockers Testament. On GOODBYE TO ROMANCE: STANDARDS FOR A NEW GENERATION, Skolnick's revved up trio stunningly reconfigures tunes by Kiss, Aerosmith, The Who and other rock icons into jazz-based, guitar trio fare. Check out their rendition of The Who's "Pinball Wizard," where they turn the familiar melody into a blustery, jazz motif. Skolnick puts the pedal to the metal on occasion as a means for seamlessly integrating rock stylizations into the mix as the rhythm section pursues beefy swing beats. Besides the musicians' technical prowess, they execute these rock tunes with a slant that might imply an antithesis to what was originally conceived. Ordering info: www.alexskolnick.com