

Ten Favorite CDs for *ALL ABOUT JAZZ ITALIA*

AIR

Palmetto Records 2127

Frank Kimbrough, solo piano

Frank Kimbrough is simply a master. But to speak of Frank as pianist or speak of his 'musicianship' doesn't begin to describe the profound musical mind that is released through his playing . . . one must hear for him or herself. The first chord of the first track is a magnificent portal to what is to come . . . the improvised *Three Chords* other-worldly. A solo recording of Frank playing Annette Peacock's music still remains unreleased. I hope that this music as well will be heard by all who value the sublime in life.

SUBTEXTURES

Fresh Sounds New Talent - FSNT175

Ron Horton, trumpet and flugelhorn

Frank Kimbrough, piano

Ben Allison, bass

Matt Wilson, drums

Ron Horton's compositions have so much elegance. In this recording Ron's music is uniquely complemented by pieces of Andrew Hill, Oliver Messiaen and Frederic Chopin, where this ensemble, at other times driving and dense, plays with space and limpidity. Ron's counterpoints, often angular and disjointed, are at the same time cohesive, ample, surprising fodder to the musical imaginations of these closely-knit players. Ron is my friend and colleague, and I write with sincere appreciation of his support over the years.

SOUND SONGS

Winter & Winter N° 919 006-2 (re-release)

Jay Clayton and Jerry Granelli

I came across this recording through Jay Clayton herself . . . she has been a remarkable inspiration, to me and many vocalists of all genres. Jay imparts such a world of freedom and possibilities to singers, like an awakening . . . and how she communicates text! In *Sound Songs*, with no chordal instrument Jay Clayton and Jerry Granelli create so much melodic and harmonic content . . . effortlessly, like grown-up children at play . . .

EXILE

ECM 1524, 1994

Sidsel Endresen, voice

Django Bates, piano, Tenor horn

Nil Petter Molvaer, trumpet

Jon Christensen, drums, percussion

Jens Bugge Wesseltoft, keyboards

David Darling, cello

Although I have never met Norway's Sidsel Endresen, her music is close to my skin. All of her recordings, even the more experimental such as *One*, are personal and organic. For me, the tracks in *Exile* unfold one from another in a marvelous, novel-like way. The music and moving text are a path away from the mundane, though harkening often to folk-like musical lines and images as in *Stages I, II, III* or the raw quality of *Theme I*. This wonderful work of words/music/playing/singing tells me a story each time I listen.

SOMEWHERE CALLED HOME

ECM 1337

Norma Winstone, voice

John Taylor, piano

Tony Coe, clarinet, tenor saxophone

Though first and joyfully introduced to Norma Winstone's singing through the trio Azimuth, there's an interplay of qualities between her voice and clarinet that speaks so directly to me. Ms. Winstone's honest, open and unfettered rendering of songs amid Tony Coe's often abstract context with John Taylor's crystalline piano-canvas provides exultant vocal trio listening. I have been very fortunate to hear Norma Winstone more than once, live in New York City performances.

ELEMENT CHOIR

Barnyard Records

Christine Duncan - conducts The Element Choir a 51 voice improvising choir

Jean Martin - drums, trumaphone

Jim Lewis – trumpet

Eric Robertson - Cassavant Pipe Organ

Jesse Zubot – violin

<http://barnyardrecords.com> . . . this project out of Toronto, Canada is not to be believed! 51 voices and 4 musicians who have developed a language of structured and unstructured sound drawing from many styles. Christine Duncan, voice and conductor, has developed various cues and signals that give reign to large vocal ensemble improvisation that breaks down pre-conceptions of choral music . . . this is very powerful! I have deep roots in and love for choral singing and find the bold creativity of this project very exciting.

ELEVATED

Cantaloupe Music CA21029 2005

David Lang, composer

European Music Project, track 3

Mike Svoboda solo trombone, track 3

Lisa Moore solo piano, track 1

A Change of Light, track 2

One night I woke up to the unusual and compelling sounds of David Lang's *Men*, 3rd track of his recording *Elevated*. In the middle of the night I was drawn in and riveted to the emotional quality of this minimalistic writing . . . with powerful, unexpected harmonic shifts and persistent, building textures of sound. David Lang is one of the founders of Bang on a Can, an enormously important and effect vehicle for original expression in contemporary music. I highly recommend this music of no category.
www.bangonacan.org

NATIVE DANCER

CBS Records 46159 1975, 1990

Wayne Shorter, tenor/soprano saxophones

Milton Nascimento, vocals, guitar

Herbie Hancock, piano, keyboards

Airto Moreira, percussion

Dave McDaniel, bass

Roberto Silva, drums

Wagner Tiso, organ, piano

Jay Graydon, guitar

Dave Amaro, guitar

Ah, *Native Dancer*, a young love that you could never forget. I was inseparable from the first release in 1975 and grateful for the digital remastering in 1990. So many wonderful memories come alive when I listen now in 2010! This music is ravishing, today . . . Milton Nascimento's voice and melodies (as well as instrumental tracks) are classic sounds for all-time.

EMPHASIS

Hat Hut Records, hat ART 1993

Jimmy Giuffre, clarinet

Paul Bley, piano

Steve Swallow, double-bass

Though I have spent many hours listening to Jimmy Giuffre's clarinet playing, I am especially fond of this trio recording . . . the play is so engaged yet gentle, the compositions stunning. Carla Bley's *Jesus Maria* invokes intimacy and humor, so suited to this ensemble . . . hard to believe this was recorded in 1961.

NOCTURNE

Verve 2001

Charlie Haden, bass, producer

Gonzalo Rubalcaba, piano, producer

Ignacio Berroa, drums, percussion

Joe Lovano, tenor saxophone

David Sanchez, tenor saxophone

Pat Metheny, acoustic guitar

Frederico Britos Ruiz, violin

This recording lives in a world of naturalness, beauty and simplicity. A poem printed on the insert could be an underlying lyric for any of the tracks . . . *With You in the Distance* by César Postillo de la Luz I feel this music arises from a natural intelligence that is the seed of optimism. For me listening to *Nocturne* is the essence of co-existence, in night, and day.