

emborg's moonsongs

It's been seven years since pianist and composer Jørgen Emborg made his previous cd (Emborg/Larsen Group "Face the Music"). With "Moonsongs", one of Denmark's finest melody makers is (at long last!) back in business. The ten tunes on the cd were created over a period of more than five years, during which time Emborg tried out the music both in rehearsals and live; then he adjusted and fine-tuned the songs - being a creative perfectionist. Jørgen Emborg is known for almost going into hiding when he composes, and the ten exquisite tunes on this cd bear the stamp of perfect and genuine meticulousness in the structuring of the music.

There is an unmistakable scent of Brazil in Emborg's compositions; like so many others, he is moved and inspired by Jobim and the other grand masters from the country of the Samba. His music always reflects his deep love of the "tristesse" of modern Brazilian music, but there is also always a whiff of the countryside and a feeling that there must be an old farmhouse near by. The simple, yet refined melodic lines are surrounded by beautifully carved harmonic progressions, distinctly Emborg-ish.

Of course "Moonsongs" includes an Emborg speciality: the great, open ballads - "Losing you now" and "It dawned upon me". And a couple of newly written, playful up-tempo tunes ("Lucky me", "Nobody knows you like me" and "The ride of your life"), which, besides their fine jazz qualities, have distinct hit potential.

The only one left from the Emborg/Larsen Group is saxophonist Hans Ulrik. And being so familiar with Emborg's musical universe, he always adds extra colouring to the music.

In most of the tunes we are treated to the lovely and cheerful voice of Emborg's preferred singer today, Susanne Palsbøll, who has also written the lyrics for two of the songs; the others are written by Emborg's regular lyricist, Liza Freeman.

With his new group - called Moonsongs, like the cd - Emborg has changed direction. Musicians such as guitarist Per Gade and drummer Klaus Menzer (who played on Emborg's scandalously overlooked children's cd from 1999, "Verdens Navle"), add to the tunes a wonderful physical power and energy, which does the music a world of good.

Trumpet player Jesper Riis fills in brilliantly in the ballad "It dawned upon me", and singer Malene Mortensen joins Susanne Palsbøll on "Chant" and backs up Susanne beautifully in "Nobody knows you like me".

Jørgen Emborg's music has been missed. With the recording "Moonsongs" he is back in top form – enjoy!

EMBORG'S MOONSONGS

STUCD 05062, STUNT RECORDS

Jørgen Emborg (piano, keyboards), Susanne Palsbøll (vocals), Hans Ulrik (tenor sax), Per Gade (guitar), Peter Hansen (bass), Klaus Menzer (drums), & Jesper Riis (trumpet), Jan zum Vohrde (flute), Søren Frost (drums), Malene Mortensen (backing vocals).

lucky me / the ride of your life / losing you now / my secret hideaway / if you please / moon song / chant /
it dawned upon me / nobody knows you like me / you will find peace

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