



**BOBO MORENO &
THE ERNIE WILKINS ALMOST BIG BAND**
OUT OF THIS WORLD...

(Stunt Records, STUCD 07102)

Other countries have their Jamie Cullums, Harry Connicks, Kurt Ellings and Michael Bublés – male vocalists with big voices and a leg in jazz. Denmark has Bobo Moreno, and if there is any justice in this world, he won't be an international secret for long. His talent and stature compares favorably with international stars. If you have heard him in front of a big band, you know what we mean – if not, check him out!

OUT OF THIS WORLD shows Bobo at his sparkling best, bursting with energy and professionalism, and backed by an orchestra with the full sound of a big band and the flexibility and swing of a combo, and wonderful soloist in every seat.

Two musical stories are entangled on this unusual album; that of Bobo Moreno and that of The Ernie Wilkins Almost Big Band (EWABB). The first story is about Moreno's journey from pop artist to complete crooner and jazz vocalist. The latter story has to do with one of Europe's best and most original concept bands, The Ernie Wilkins Almost Big Band.

Born in 1965, Bobo Moreno was born into a world of music. The stepson of one of Denmark's leading bassists, Bo Stief, Bobo accompanied him wherever there was some interesting to listen to. By 1988 he was rocking with Danish star Sanne Salomonsen, as well as performing in other projects including the musical Hair. In 1998 he arrived on the jazz scene in Niels Jørgen Steen's The A-team, a band that soon offered him regular membership and steady work. Later, armed with a handful of good scores, he added big band work to his agenda. The Danish Broadcast Company's Big Band, Klüver's Big Band and Tivoli's Big Band are among the orchestra's to enjoy Bobo's great vocal talent. In 2004 he toured with TCB Band and James Burton, and with The Memphis Boys, on a tour that brought him to

the hometown of his idol, Elvis Presley. They performed a repertoire of popular rock and pop music.

But this is the point in the story, where Bobo takes his big jump: into the world of ballads. It all started when the Monday Night Big Band featured him in a set of transcribed Sinatra tunes, which revealed that the kid had grown up. There was depth in his delivery of those ballads that can be so very gooey and sentimental when interpreted superficially. Enter baritone saxophonist Per Goldschmidt and EWABB! Since 1995 Goldschmidt has been the enthusiastic leader of the dream band founded by legendary arranger Ernie Wilkins upon moving to Denmark. The concept is simple: they play exclusively Wilkins arrangements, first of all the instrumentals, but now also vocal arrangements. Goldschmidt had been searching high and low for someone to sing the many outstanding arrangements from the 50's, 60's and 70's written by Wilkins for great American vocalists such as Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughan, Mark Murphy and Dinah Washington; legendary arrangements just waiting for the right time and place. And along came Bobo Moreno with his outstanding voice and well-developed feeling, and the ability to combine loyalty and personal integrity in his performance of these great arrangements.

The arrangements are by the late Ernie Wilkins. "His arrangements are still so fresh, and he wrote with such incredible precision. There are no superfluous notes. Everything is just right", said Randy Brecker on one of his guest performances with the band. The arrangements have been downsized to EWABB size – 12 musicians – and they have come to life again after all these years.

The recording is from a Danish concert, and the strange thing is, that neither band nor vocalist realized how great a show they had played. Their perception of the evening had been marred by a number of technical problems, so every one was a bit skeptical when the time came to listen to the recording. But "Wow", as Goldschmidt likes to say - it was excellent.

Music does not lie, and a golden evening has been preserved; an evening when vocalist, soloists, band and recording technician created a symbiotic connection of great and tender music. Check out Bobo Moreno, check out the arrangements and all the soloists, and join in on another few "Wow"s. It's OUT OF THIS WORLD!

All arrangements by Ernie Wilkins, adapted by pianist Udo van Booven or trombonist Vincent Nilsson.

How High the Moon / Soon / On Green Dolphin Street / Teach Me Tonight / Out Of This World / Angel Eyes / Roll'em Pete / Sometimes I'm Happy / Cherokee / Stoppin' the Clock / Lil Darlin' / Milestones / Every Day I Have the Blues

Bobo Moreno (voc), Benny Rosenfeld, Palle Bolvig, Thomas Fryland (tp), Peter Jensen, Lea Nielsen (tb), Jan Zum Vohrde, Pernille Bevert, Jan Harbeck, Per Goldschmidt (sax), Nikolaj Bentzon (p), Jesper Lundgaard (b), Aage Tanggaard (dr)

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