

# HORACE PARLAN TRIO / MY LITTLE BROWN BOOK

HORACE PARLAN / CHRISTINA von BÜLOW / JESPER LUNDGAARD



Stunt Records - Pressemeddelelse - STUCD 07112 - Pladeudgivelse

We Danes have grown accustomed to hosting American musician for short or prolonged periods of time. Pianist Horace Parlan has lived here for a lifetime, and presumably he is considered just "one of the guys" - at the risk of overlooking his importance and original style.

New recordings from legendary musicians are always exiting. This most recent release with Horace Parlan is no exception. This recording is in fact a milestone.

**MY LITTLE BROWN BOOK** is a musical journey back to Parlan's early years as pianist in the bands of Charles Mingus, Roland Kirk, Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis, Archie Shepp and numerous other musical giants with whom he shared his musical talent back in the US. It is a spiritual trip from his early days to the present, through diverse musical directions and attitudes. The journey is physical and spiritual - from New York to the Danish village. From macro to micro. This music was recorded in Horace Parlan's living room in the spring of 2007.

The sparse instrumentation, piano, saxophone and bass, lend these recordings a feeling of intimacy, as if played for a small audience, with whom the musicians wish to communicate as directly as possible; subdued, lyrically and hesitantly. Only that which needs saying is said. The intimate sound is inherent in the trio's musical approach, but also a natural result of the fact that the recordings were made in Parlan's home. We are invited as guests.

The trio's two other members reflect Parlan's close association with Denmark. Alto saxophonist Christina von Bülow is a leading Danish instrumentalist. Her performance

on this recording is so wonderful, that the release could just as well have been in her name. Her lyrical sound and melodic sense is a wonderful match for Horace Parlan's playing, which has taken in an almost minimalistic direction. The 76-year old pianist lingers, ponders and moulds his harmonies into the music. It is deeply touching and leaves one in an extremely optimistic mood. For decades Jesper Lundgaard has been internationally known as one of the great Danish bassists - an acknowledgment not to be taken lightly. Over the years he has created the foundation behind numerous famous (and less famous) jazz artists. His participation as accompanist and soloist lends texture and drive to the ensemble. Lundgaard's ease and intuition keep everything in place.

The repertoire features original Horace Parlan compositions as well as classic jazz standards. There is a controlled approach throughout, which results in a warm and pleasant band sound. All three musicians are deeply involved in establishing an atmosphere of creative dialogue; creative dialogue between imaginative and sympathetic personalities with something on their minds.

**MY LITTLE BROWN BOOK** is a shining gem of true jazz. It is a positive and reflective lesson in empathetic and intuitive communication between three outstanding musicians, creating music with soul and intimate beauty.

Horace Parlan (p), Christina von Bülow (as),  
Jesper Lundgaard (b), Denmark 2007

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