

A new cd with JAZZPAR PRISVINDEREN ENRICO RAVA

Enrico Rava JAZZPAR 2002 Sextet: Happiness Is...

Enrico Rava plays better than ever! His warm, mellow and delightfully lyrical tone may turn fiery and aggressive. His style is a kind of American expressive jazz with Italian folklore added. There are references to a long line of jazz masters - with whom Rava has also often played during his long career in music - but first of all the Italian trumpet player is a musician with enormous experience and an easily recognizable sound.

In 2002 Enrico Rava was the 13th recipient of the world's largest jazz prize - the annual JAZZPAR Prize. The 62-year-old trumpet player, composer and band leader was the fifth European and first Italian to receive the cheque of DKK 200,000 from the former Danish Prime Minister during a concert at "Glassalen" in the Tivoli Gardens.

But there is more to the JAZZPAR Prize than the large cash award donated by the exclusive sponsor, Skandinavisk Tobakskompagni. A tour is also arranged for the prize winner together with a number of Danish and international top musicians, they make recordings, and the project attracts considerable media attention.

Enrico Rava, now 63, has covered a lot of ground. He was born in Trieste and played New Orleans jazz on trombone until he heard Chet Baker and Miles Davis. Then Enrico bought a trumpet and went to New York to study. From 1965 he toured with, among others, Mal Waldron and saxophonists Steve Lacy, Lee Konitz and Gato Barbieri. For a decade Rava worked with trombonist Roswell Rudd and Don Cherry on pocket trumpet, with bassist Charlie Haden, and with Carla Bley, Archie Shepp and many others.

Rava's JAZZPAR Sextet for the concerts in April 2002 had been put together with care: A young co-brass player (Italian trombonist Gianluca Petrella), who complements Rava's passionate sound; an old friend (American guitarist John Abercrombie) with mutual respect and veneration; Italy's answer to Victor Borge (pianist Stefano Bollani), who has great perception and the ability to fill gaps and create energy; and finally the experienced Danish rhythm tandem, bassist Jesper Bodilsen and drummer Morten Lund, who are household names in Denmark but were a great surprise to the other members of the band.

After three days of rehearsals no less than four concerts were recorded. Now a number of highlights can be heard on the brilliant JAZZPAR 2002 cd. The music is exquisite and the sound superb.

Enrico Rava (tp, flh), Gianluca Petrella (tb), John Abercrombie (g), Stefano Bollani (p), Jesper Bodilsen (b), Morten Lund (d).

Visit www.jazzpar.dk for further information about the project and biographies of all the participating musicians.

Stunt Records STUCD 03062