



Kenny Werner / Jens Søndergaard Duo "A Time For Love"

STUCD 08092

There were no long, tedious days of rehearsals prior to the session when the Danish saxophonist Jens Søndergaard and American pianist Kenny Werner recorded around 15 ballads from the Great American Songbook. No more than two takes of each tune – if the magic was there, they may as well move on. And the magic most certainly was there, when the two seasoned musicians met at Copenhagen's Sun Studios; a magic that enabled both players to perform with ease. Jens Søndergaard's main instrument is the alto, but he also plays baritone and clarinet. He masters his idiom of expression and allows the inspiration of the moment to carry him. Kenny Werner is an awe-inspiring pianist – supersensitive and reflective. He seems to master everything, weaving an extremely beautiful tapestry of notes as a backdrop for the lyrical horn-player. This is how experienced and insightful jazz musicians find each other; this is how the ego is neutralized – a wonderful and elegant recording, lyrical and romantic.

Copenhagen was first introduced to Kenny Werner in the '80s, when he visited as part of saxophonist Archie Shepp's quartet. Since then, he returned many times, often to play with Danish drummer Alex Riel's trio (listen to the Stunt release "Celebration"), but also to see his sax-playing dentist Jens Søndergaard! They played together informally on several occasions, and finally a recording date was arranged. This is the happy result.

Kenny Werner (b.1951) is a musician's musician who impresses equally as a solo pianist, in trio format or with horns. He has been active as a musician, composer and teacher since the '70s. In the 1980s he joined Archie Shepp's quartet, and in 1984 he became a key member of Mel Lewis' orchestra. Since then, he has played at home and abroad with an impressive list of musicians, always cherished for his sublime and attentive musicality and enormous technical abilities as well as for his talent as an arranger for big bands. The list includes Toots Thielmans, Lee Konitz, Joe Henderson, Bob Brookmeyer, Tom Harrell, Kenny Wheeler, Eddie Henderson, Ron Carter, Michael Brecker, Dave Holland, Charlie Haden, Jack DeJohnette, Billy Hart, Bobby McFerrin, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Elvin Jones, and Joe Lovano. He appears on the Stunt releases "Relatin", "The Riel Deal" and "Celebration" with Alex Riel, Michael Brecker, Jerry Bergonzi and Mike Stern. His latest release is for Blue Note.

Jens Søndergaard (b.1945) has been active on the Danish jazz scene for over 40 years in big bands and small combos, as a sideman and bandleader. His main influences are Art Pepper and Lee Konitz. He has often worked – and also recorded – with Konitz. His previous album, the critically acclaimed "More Pepper" is from 2007 and also released on Stunt Records.

But Beautiful/Round Midnight/A Time For Love/Lover Man/Over the Rainbow/Willow Weep for Me/Darn That Dream/Everything Happens to Me

Jens Søndergaard (as, cl on Loverman, bts on But Beautiful), Kenny Werner (p)

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