

RED PYTHON
OLE MATTHIESSEN



Stunt Records
STUCD 13062
Distribution DC Norden



Ole Matthiessen's previous two very well received Stunt releases presented ten ballads (POEMS, PORTRAITS & PLACES; 2007) and twelve different kinds of blues (PAST & PRESENT; 2010). The eleven compositions on the anthology's third album, RED PYTHON, are inspired by standards and tunes from the great American songbook. Some, Ole Matthiessen wrote recently, others are almost half a century old. The tunes are small musical stories with simple melodies and durable harmonic structures open to a wide range of interpretations by musicians well versed in standards. This music draws a straight line to generations of acoustic jazz with an added touch of melodic translucency born out of the Danish song tradition.

Ole Matthiessen is a legendary figure in Danish jazz. A regular producer for Danish Radio's famous jazz department since 1970, his direct influence on the Danish jazz scene has been enormous. Over the years he has produced countless live recordings with Danish and international musicians, written books, hosted radio shows, taught – and shared his seemingly endless knowledge with readers of the Danish jazz magazine Jazz Special. Ole Matthiessen's whole oeuvre is based on his passion for jazz. He has played piano since 1963, and before the Danish Broadcasting Corporation began taking up most of his time, he performed with Danish and international musicians. His work as producer has mainly been with Danish musicians and with the Danish Radio Big Band, but he has also produced many international artists including Duke Ellington, Sun Ra, Ben Webster and Miles Davis. Through the years he has kept his piano chops up in his own trios and as a sideman. And every Wednesday one may find him in

JazzCup – the only shop in Denmark that specializes exclusively in jazz – where he is ready to share his knowledge. For RED PYTHON Matthiessen assembled a strong group of jazz musicians, each of whom adds his personal touch to the music. Three of them have received the prestigious Ben Webster Prize: trumpeter Henrik Bolberg, the Copenhagen-based American tenor saxophonist Bob Rockwell, and bassist Jesper Lundgaard, a giant among Danish bassists. Always a welcome guest in Denmark, the American drummer Adam Nussbaum completes the group, and his energy, positive attitude, creativity and open-minded approach contributes in helping the music take flight. The outstanding Swedish guitarist, Bjarne Roupé, is a featured guest on two tracks.

The recording session was much like back in the heyday of jazz in the '50s: A couple of horn rehearsals; a short sound check in the studio before counting in to the first tune "Time To Move On". At the most a couple of takes of each track – which is all that's required when working with seasoned musicians.

As with the two previous releases, the compositions are included on the CD as pdf-files, and due to several requests in connection with the previous albums, they now include melody lines for Bb instruments.

The layout and cover art is by the leading Danish art photographer, Fie Johansen. The front cover image is from Amsterdam and shows the fascinating bridge called "The Red Python", from which the title track takes its name.

Time To Move On / Some Place Under The Sky / Pinhole / Red Python / Theme To An Oldfashioned Girl / Relaxing At La Napoule
Second To None / At Ease* / Nørrebrovalsen / All Of Us / Pulling Through.*

Henrik Bolberg (tp), Bob Rockwell (ts), Ole Matthiessen (p), Jesper Lundgaard (b), Adam Nussbaum (dr), Bjarne Roupé (g).

STUCD 13062 Ole Matthiessen, Red Python, Stunt Records 2013



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