

Mariane Bitran A PLACE FOR YOU

On a par with other very 'classical' instruments such as harp and French horn, the flute is an outsider in the instrumentarium of jazz. Apart from those saxophonists who have chosen it as their second instrument, the flute has few exponents in the world of jazz.

Consequently, it is with great pleasure that STUNT RECORDS presents a thoroughbred jazz musician with a capitol J, exclusively dedicated the flute and the examination of it's potential in jazz.

43-year old Mariane Bitran moved to Denmark a few years ago, but in her native France she has been a leading 'sideman' since her early youth, and is still a very popular name. Her playing has enhanced many ensembles, CDs and radio transmissions.

Now Mariane Britan feels ready to release an album in her own name. Her self-criticism is large and her ambitions high, and her natural and original talent makes her an artist from whom we may and shall expect a lot. And there has been a lot worth waiting for.

In close collaboration with the brilliant Danish pianist Poul Reimann, she has created a perfect debut featuring mainly her own and Reimann's compositions. Her pure sound and enchanting elegance are definitely not everyday fare in jazz. She has found her own musical identity, expresses herself with technical ease within the jazz idiom, has a genuine and deeply musical imagination, and seems able to play whatever she feels. She dominates her material, improvising in an original and rhythmically well-founded manner. The happy outcome is a straight-forward and swinging affair, warm and spirited, here and there with a refreshing touch of world music.

Her collaborator, the rising star and permanent member of Mariane's quartet, Danish pianist Poul Reimann, is impossible to overlook. His obvious talent, propulsive and occasionally almost fiery, virtuoso and swinging piano playing suits the French flautist. Bassist Thomas Fonnesbæk fills the music behind the soloists with just the right depth and solidly pulsating bottom, and Anders Mogensen's elastic drumming completes the band. An extra spice is the addition of Togolese guitarist Alain Dodji Apaloo (listen to him sing in unison on his solos) and the Cuban percussionist Ignacio Guerra Acosta.

Mariane Bitran's A PLACE FOR YOU has enriched the sparse flute discography of jazz with an important release.

Flute + jazz = Mariane Bitran. A simple and obvious formula.

Mariane Bitran: A Place For You
STUCD 03142, STUNT Records