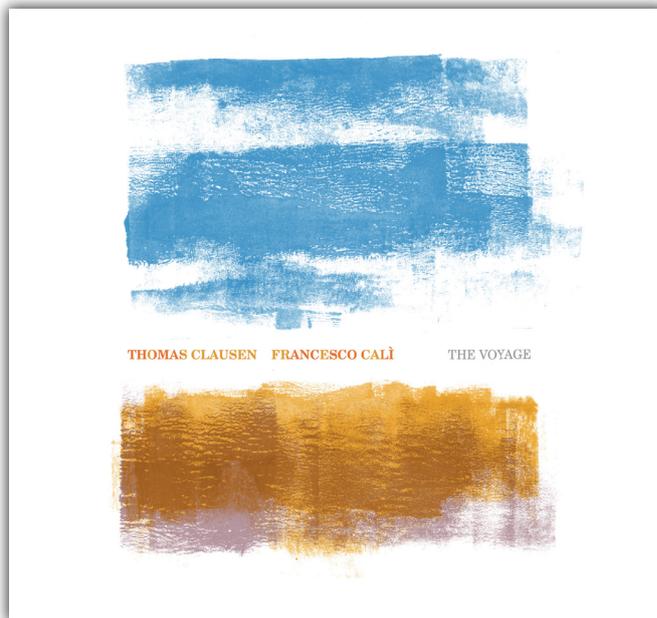


Thomas Clausen & Francesco Cali

THE VOYAGE

Stunt Records



Stunt Records CD
STUCD 16032



Is it pure coincidence that Italian Francesco Cali and Danish Thomas Clausen have found each other? Hardly. Despite the unconventional line-up of accordion and piano, this collaboration between two musicians of melodic persuasion has grown and developed wonderfully and organically.

Francesco Cali was born and raised in Italy. He is a classically trained pianist and composer. He has lived in Copenhagen since 2003. He is aware that an artist's personality is formed through assimilation of his roots, and Cali has blended various idioms into an original and personal sound. European, but also related to jazz, Brazil and Argentina ... and naturally – Italy. He has also succeeded in lifting the accordion out of the realm of popular music and given it a deserved higher status.

The Danish pianist Thomas Clausen was born in 1949 and a graduate from the Royal Danish Conservatory. He is widely acknowledged as an outstanding and innovative pianist. He articulates with power and lucidity, his phrasing is remarkable as is his touch and timing. He too has incorporated influences from many sources. His musical playground includes classical music, South American music and of course jazz.

In his younger years particularly, he performed with many jazz greats as well as Danish colleagues in classical and jazz ensembles and in his own groups.

It is a fact that jazz retains its vitality through meetings with other musical cultures. It is obvious that this duo acts and expresses itself through this paradigm, and Clausen's short pieces in various moods find their inspiration in southern European folk music, Brazilian choros, tango, European harmonic concepts with an impressionistic lilt, and American jazz. Melancholic ballads and intense passion are held together by motifs that establish continuity throughout the pieces. In an almost minimalistic format with improvisation as an important factor, Thomas Clausen has created small compositional gems.

Thomas and Francesco are not musical twins, yet these two extraordinary musicians with very different cultural backgrounds have merged in a wonderful musical alliance with an ideal sound. A fascinating entity – emotional, melodic and creative. They have found a common path to timeless beauty, tranquility, genuine warmth and poetry.

Thomas Clausen (piano), Francesco Cali (accordion).

Prologue: Old Portraits / Morning / Alone / Clouds / People / Ordeal / Street Life no. 1 / The Room / The Family / Morning in the City / Tough Tale / Street Life no. 2 / Horror Story / New Friends / The Morning After / Get a Job! / Factory Life / The Soldier's Tale / Battlefield / End Of The Day / Reunion / Bliss / Epilogue.

*STUCD 16032 Thomas Clausen & Francesco Cali, The Voyage, Stunt Records/Sundance Music.
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