

TROPIQUES

References. Knowledge. Facts.

Things we need? To appreciate the music?

Do we need to know the whole history of music in general and jazz in particular? To appreciate the music?

Do we need to know the intent of the group? To appreciate the music?

Tropiques is full of references, knowledge and facts. They know the history - they know their history. They are full of intent.

No other music the past years has made me so - without reservations - happy!

I love every second of this album. Unbelievable! A classic! Now? In 2019?

The classic records I have listened to are all made *during* the various periods in jazz where the music was all being defined. When the research was done. When the music was formulated.

All the most kickin free jazz that I know were all made in the 60's. All the best hard bop I know were all made in the 50s. All the best bebop I know were all made in the 40s...

There is usually a reason for that.

Repetition does NOT work as a creative tool for artistic freedom. You dig?

I listen to **Tropiques** with Christer Bothén and I am all a SMILE!

This music has so much personality, so much fantasy, so much richness --- enough for everybody! I tell you. For each of us - this cup of free music has it all. And it is grabbing it in the moment! At every moment, that is!

Christer Bothén is the perfect guest to this jazz quartet of ancient future! The way he plays makes time collapse and being reborn again at every given moment. Pure magic - and one of very few ways of playing that connects me to ancient times every time I hear it - and connects with the future in the very same phrase. No matter if Christer is playing his magic on guimbri or bass clarinet, it all has the same effect on me!

The quartet sounds more creative then freakin ever. The way that the keyboard, drums and bass are locking time... is almost tooooooo goooooood. And the trumpet travels outside. And the trumpet travels inside. Woven colors of poetic beauty!

And it SWINGS! Like MAD! (Berthling and Holmegard is ONE beast of swing, ONE beast of interactive completion - I can hear them smile...)

For me it is like a complete dream fusion of all elements I love in jazz.

Improvisation, resistance, friction, swing and fantasy. And with elements of surprise that make me shake slowly in ecstasy (Alex Zethson - I don't think you fully understand what an amazing effect you have on this music, do you? Promise to keep feeding us with creativity on this level, please!)

And the compositions are just stellar. Riffs and figures. Divine melodies and rhythmic contra punctual references and facts.

Parameters in oppositions that marry in the most beautiful way - extreme smoothness paired with aggressive statements - danceable swing paired with abstract states of mind - deep wooden colors paired with brassy bursts of freedom.

I know the references. I have the knowledge. I know the facts.

And WHO CARES?????

We don't need the references, knowledge and facts.

We need the music. AS IS! AS IT IS! AS THIS!

TROPIQUES!

Just listen... just enter this album openly ---- and go with the flow of amazing arrangements of pristine materials - of DEEP improvisational creativity - of telepathic interaction - of surprising twists and beauty.

Whatever the intent was - it works on me!

This is HUGE.

HUGE!

...and you can dance to it!

Mats Gustafsson, Stockholm , January 2019.