

Lubos Soukup Ensemble Through the Mirror

Through the Mirror, the second album of saxophonist and composer Lubos Soukup, presents 10 ambitious contemporary compositions arranged for a large international ensemble. The author has a sophisticated approach to sound and harmonies, and although the musicians have a deep knowledge of traditional jazz, their music stands for an original modern European jazz.

Through the Mirror introduces an unique European collaboration. Fourteen musicians from five different countries meet up in the ensemble. The band is an extension of Lubos Soukup Quartet, which has played together since 2010 and developed its authentic sound. The quartet is surrounded by the Czech strings Epoque Quartet, and by six horns, mostly musicians from the Danish Radio Big Band.

The leader of the project is Lubos Soukup, the Czech saxophonist and composer, based in Copenhagen, Denmark. The rhythm section of the quartet consists of the experienced German pianist Christian Pabst, the Swedish bass player Joel Illerhag, and the Danish hard grooving drummer Morten Hæsum. All four musicians have something extraordinary to offer and their interaction creates a strong spirit.

Lubos wrote 10 stunning pieces that blur the lines between genres. His music speaks directly to the audience. The connection of well-composed themes and improvised soundscapes gives listeners a deep experience and brings them to a space that is open for their imagination and fantasy. The album is like a book, yet the musicians tell stories without words. Instead of words, there are abstract pictures, related to tracks, inside the booklet. And moreover, some compositions are connected to each other.

»There are two sections of compositions on the CD that have a common motif or idea. The first section is represented by the pieces 'Through the Mirror', 'Mirror', and 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being'. Their common element is fragility. The second section consists of compositions 'Shaman', 'Cookin' and 'Under the Sky'. The pieces have a common melodic motif that has been worked out differently in each composition. It's like being at a crossroads and try each way one by one,« explains Soukup.

Soukup draws his inspiration from all kinds of arts. For example The Unbearable Lightness of Being is dedicated to the eponymous book written by Milan Kundera. The album also reflects his foreign experience /Slav in Scandinavia/ and his love of the music of Wayne Shorter /On the Wings of a Story/.

»I got my first foreign experience in Poland. I had been studying music there for three years. Then I passed the entrance exams to the master program Music Performance in Copenhagen, Denmark. At the same time, I received a scholarship from the biggest Czech festival of classical and jazz music Strings of Autumn. It was a sign. I grabbed the chance and moved. Copenhagen is an international city with many skilled and creative musicians. This environment encouraged me to fulfill my dream about a recording with a big ensemble.«

Visit lubossoukup.com, soundcloud.com/lubossoukup, en.animalmusic.cz or pgspecialagent.com for more information, free tracks and etc.

Distribution

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Album Info

Artist Luboš Soukup Ensemble
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Recorded by Bjørn Gjessing at The Village, Vanløse, DK; and by Michal Vaniš and Pavel Karlík at Sono Records, Nouzov, CZ.
Mixed by August Wanngren at We Know Music Studios, Islands Brygge, Copenhagen, DK.
Mastered by Thomas Eberger at Stockholm Mastering, Stockholm, SW.

Tracks

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| 1 Street | 7:56 |
| 2 On the Wings of a Story | 6:38 |
| 3 The Unbearable Lightness of Being | 2:24 |
| 4 Shaman | 4:37 |
| 5 Slav in Scandinavia | 4:55 |
| 6 Mirror | 5:02 |
| 7 Cookin' | 4:24 |
| 8 Prisoner | 6:08 |
| 9 Under the Sky | 4:24 |
| 10 Through the Mirror | 2:24 |

All composition by Lubos Soukup

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