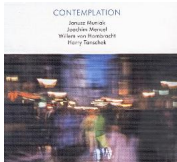


Janusz Muniak, Joachim Mencil, Willem von Hombracht, Harry Tanschek - Contemplation (2015)



1. *Time For Love* (Johnny Mandel / Paul Francis Webster) 2. *Alone Together* (Arthur Schwartz / Howard Dietz) 3. *Contemplation* (McCoy Tyner) 4. *Moja ballada* (Krzysztof Komeda) 5. *Annie* (Janusz Muniak) 6. *What Are You Doing With The Rest Of Your Life* (Michel Jean Legrand / Alan Bergman, Marilyn Bergman) 7. *Sunshower* (Kenny Barron) 8. *I Fall In Love Too Easily* (Jule Styne / Sammy Cahn) 9. *Body And Soul* (Johnny Green / Edward Heyman, Robert Sour, Frank Eyton) Janusz Muniak – tenor saxophone Joachim Mencil – piano Willem von Hombracht – double bass Harry Tanschek – drums

This is a long awaited recording by the legendary Polish Jazz saxophonist / composer Janusz Muniak, recorded in a classic quartet setting with Polish pianist Joachim Mencil, American bassist Willem von Hombracht and Austrian drummer Harry Tanschek. Together they perform nine tunes, eight of which are standards and one is an original composition by Muniak.

Although the album is credited to all four quartet members, it is obvious that it celebrates the participation of Muniak, who last recorded an album in 2002, i.e. ten years before this material was recorded three years before it was released. Muniak's original composition on this album is the title track of that previous album.

It is obviously almost impossible to be even seemingly objective about this music considering the legendary figure of the leader, who is without a doubt one of the great Godfathers of Polish Jazz. The album is entirely immersed in the mainstream Jazz idiom, both as far as the music which is being performed and the way it is performed. Muniak's tone is still intact, although he plays mostly softly and keeps his phrases short and sweet. The piano trio supporting him is solid and very amicable, supporting the leader all the way through. Everybody is extremely cautious, trying to be gentle and round, which means there are risks being taken at all.

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In many respects this album makes me sad and reflective, as it points out that time is not standing still for anybody. Overall this is a nice mainstream album, no surprises, no risks, no news, a gentle wave of hand by a great Master saying "I can still do it". Respect! ---Jazzis, rateyourmusic.com

Chociaż płyta firmowana jest czterema nazwiskami to nie ulega wątpliwości, że centralną postacią i osobą, która miała największy wpływ na dobór utworów jest Janusz Muniak – legenda polskiego jazzu, wielki muzyk, zdobywca Złotego Fryderyka za całokształt działalności (2015). Na płycie znajdują się standardy oraz jedna kompozycja Janusza Muniaka.

Materiał został przygotowany w Krakowie, nagrany w lipcu 2012 r. w studiu Radia Katowice i zmiksowany w Studiu im. Agnieszki Osieckiej PR w Warszawie. Nagrania w całości zarejestrował i zmiksował nieodżałowany Wojtek Przybylski, wspaniały realizator dźwięku, który stworzył brzmienie wielu kultowych płyt.

W „Contemplation” aby uzyskać klasyczne jazzowe brzmienie zastosował techniki studyjnej rejestracji używane w latach 60. ---Beata Mencil, jazzforum.com.pl

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