

UMO Jazz Orchestra - Transit People (2001)

Written by bluesever

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1. *2000.fi* (4:02) 2. *Transit People* (6:53) 3. *Federico Garcia* (8:07) 4. *Afro-Blue* (5:44) 5. *Stream-Lines* (5:57) 6. *Naima* (5:40) 7. *Me (Us) part II* (7:48) 8. *Us Et Coutumes* (15:17)

Alto Saxophone, Clarinet – Mikko Mäkinen Alto Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, Other [C-Melody Saxophone], Clarinet – Jouni Järvelä Baritone Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Flute – Pepa Päivinen Conductor, Keyboards [3, 4, 6, 8] – Kirmo Lintinen Double Bass – Pekka Sarmanto Drums, Percussion, Drums – Markus Ketola Electric Piano [5], Synthesizer [1, 7] – Jarmo Savolainen Tenor Saxophone, Flute – Olli Ojajärvi Tenor Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute – Teemu Salminen Trombone – Markku Veijonsuo, Matti Lappalainen, Pekka Laukkanen Trombone [Bass] – Mikael Långbacka Trumpet, Flugelhorn – Esko Heikkinen, Mikko Pettinen, Tero Saarti, Timo Paasonen

The UMO Jazz orchestra made their Naxos Jazz debut among the first six releases from the new label in 1998 with their self-titled disc (UMO Orchestra, Naxos Jazz 86010). The orchestra performed a bright progressive type of big band jazz that listeners have come to expect of European, specifically Scandinavian, orchestras. UMO has never been frightened away from a pricklier repertoire and they take John Coltrane nuggets like "Equinox" (on their first recording) and "Naima" (from this new one) and breathe big life into them, recasting them almost classically. The Mongo Santamaria vehicle "Afro Blue" (also with threads to Coltrane) is given a bright reading with superb brass tonality. The original material follows in vein as the standards. The UMO Orchestra continues to be a worth addition to any big band library. --- C. Michael Bailey, Rovi

Finland's 16-member UMO Jazz Orchestra honors its 25th anniversary in the year 2001. And while they may not be a household name in the United States, this band has performed with the

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crème de la crème of modern jazz -- late-'90s recordings with trumpeter/flügelhornist Kenny Wheeler and trumpeter Tim Hagans have alerted more than just a few to this ensemble's far-reaching capabilities and undeniably stylistic approach. With this effort, the orchestra imprints its indelible stamp of authenticity on Mongo Santamaria's infamous "Afro-Blue" and John Coltrane's classic "Naima," along with several original compositions by various band members. Here, the musicians' fuse big-band style horn charts with fiery electric guitar riffs, synth-based tonal shadings, and memorably melodic choruses. Simply put, the UMO Jazz Orchestra is a class outfit and one of modern jazz' woefully under-recognized treasures.

---Glenn Astarita, allmusic.com

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