

Miroslav Vitous - Infinite Search (1969)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 29 December 2016 15:05 -

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01. *Freedom Jazz Dance* [10:54] 02. *Mountain In The Clouds* [01:51] 03. *When Face Gets Pale* [07:38] 04. *Infinite Search* [06:49] 05. *I Will Tell Him On You* [11:00] 06. *Epilogue* [06:57] 07. *Cérecka* [02:45] Bass – Miroslav Vitous Drums – Jack DeJohnette (tracks: 1-5, 7), Joe Chambers (tracks: 6) Electric Piano – Herbie Hancock Guitar – John McLaughlin Tenor Saxophone – Joe Henderson

With John McLaughlin, Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, and Jack DeJohnette, this group rivaled the best fusion bands of the day. It must have been an intimidating challenge for a young Czech bassist to lead such a group on his debut album as a frontman, especially since he composed five of the six tracks. Recorded in late 1969, roughly the same time as the historic *Bitches Brew*, and the year before Vitous began a stint with the innovative *Weather Report*, this was trend-setting fusion. It's produced by Herbie Mann, for whom Vitous played on such albums as *Memphis Underground* and *Stone Flute*. ---Mark Allen, AllMusic Review

Miroslav Vitous is probably most known for being part of WEATHER REPORT when they first started out, but he has a long resume. This is his first solo album released before WEATHER REPORT's debut which came out the following year. Miroslav is such a talented bass player but he also plays violin and keyboards, and when he was younger he was a world class free-style swimmer. In fact after winning a scholarship to Berklee College of Music he had to decide between swimming and music. Thankfully he chose the latter. The lineup on this album is such that you should be sitting down when you read off the names. John McLaughlin on guitar, Jack DeJohnette on drums, Joe Henderson on sax and Herbie Hancock on electric piano. Told you so. My first impression of this album was that it wasn't very dynamic. It's more Free-Jazz perhaps, certainly not in the MAHAVISHNU ORCHESTRA style. And Vitous is very dominant

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here along with DeJohnette as the guitar, piano and sax come and go.

"Freedom Jazz Dance" opens with seemingly everyone being part of the sound. Very intricate stuff. Piano comes to the fore 3 minutes in. Bass is just throbbing away then the guitar takes the spotlight after 4 1/2 minutes. McLaughlin is ripping it up. Henderson's turn after 6 1/2 minutes. This is the most dynamic track. "Mountain In The Clouds" is a short tune with cymbals and bass leading early. Check out the bass and drums !

"When Face Gets Pale" opens with cymbals, bass, piano and intricate guitar. The bass is incredible here. Deep bass lines late. "Infinite Search" is led by bass, piano and drums. "I Will Tell Him On You" features sax, piano, bass and drums standing out early. Sax leads before 3 minutes. It gets pretty intense a minute later. Guitar takes the lead then piano 7 minutes in. Drums pound away after 8 1/2 minutes. "Epilogue" is the only track that DeJohnette isn't on, instead we get Joe Chambers. This one's fairly laid back as bass leads the way. Piano becomes more prominent 4 1/2 minutes in.

For me this is one of those albums you really have to pay attention to. It's not background music, you have to give attention to the detail. --- Mellotron Storm, progarchives.com

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