

Ute Lemper - City of Strangers (1995)

Written by bluelover

Sunday, 29 March 2015 15:35 - Last Updated Thursday, 31 August 2017 11:58

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01. *Losing My Mind* (04:59) 02. *Barbara* (05:38) 03. *Allein in einer groÙen Stadt* (05:25)
04. *J'attends le doux veuvage* (05:45) 05. *The Ladies Who Lunch* (06:01) 06. *Immense and Red* (10:58)
07. *Lili Marleen - Death Is a Master From Germany* (04:56) 08. *Being Alive* (04:52)
09. *DF@jeuner du matin* (04:02) 10. *Die Kleptomanin* (02:41) 11. *Embrasse-moi* (04:11)
12. *Der Graben* (06:03) 13. *Immense et rouge* (08:26) Ute Lemper – vocals
Jean-Marc Apap - Viola Jean-Philippe Audin - Cello Jean-Paul Batailley - Percussion Remi Brey - Viola
Thierry Caens - Trumpet Hervé Cavelier - Violin, Violin (Electric) Marc Chantereau - Percussion
Vincent Charbonnier - Double Bass Michèle Deschamp - Violin Bruno Fontaine - Arranger, Concept, Conductor, Keyboards, Piano, Producer
Christophe Guiot - Violin Laurent Lefèvre - Bassoon Pierre Lenert - Viola Véronique Marcel - Violin Juan José Mosalini - Bandoneon
Elisabeth Pallas - Violin Alain Randon - Bassoon Roland Romanelli - Accordion Yves Sanna - Drums Jannick Top - Guitar (Bass) Dominique Vidal - Clarinet

Although Ute Lemper is best known to her devoted cult following as one of the great cabaret singers of all time, the German-born singer began as a stage actress, and has continued this career in tandem with her cabaret work. 1995's CITY OF STRANGERS combines the two sides of Lemper's musical persona, putting songs by the idiosyncratically brilliant Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim next to chansons by the equally unique French composer Jacques Prevert.

As with all fine settings like this, the combination reveals more what the two composers have in common than how they differ. There are tracks by other composers on CITY OF STRANGERS, but Sondheim and Prevert's presence is felt even in songs they didn't compose. The arrangements, alternating between full orchestration and simple bandoneon and vocal, suit the songs beautifully, and Lemper sings with characteristic passion and grace. ---Rovi

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