



Monteverdi in the Spirit of jazz

ACT 9838-2

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A Happy 450th "in the Spirit of Jazz"

When Richie Beirach recorded his 2002 album "Round About Monteverdi", it made him reflect: "I've been involved with music for my whole life," he said, "but this was something I knew very little about." Such reflections are not uncommon; Claudio Monteverdi is one of those figures in the development of music whose role was crucial, yet whose presence is shadowy.

2017 would have marked his 450th birthday: the composer, singer and viola da gamba player was born in May 1567 in Cremona in Northern Italy. Active in the twilight of the renaissance, Monteverdi was an innovator in vocal music as it moved forward into the baroque. He didn't invent opera - he was born just a few decades too late - but was the first composer to really take it to its heights. He was a visionary, yet his star waned after his death, and he only re-appeared properly in the sights of musicologists and performers in the twentieth century ... and of jazz musicians too:

Beirach admitted astonishment at the freshness, depth and genius of this music: "I had no idea there was so much happening during this epoch. I'd always thought that Johann Sebastian Bach had begun something new. Now it's clear to me that Bach is the culmination of what Monteverdi and his contemporaries had worked on." Five pieces from Beirach's album with Gregor Huebner and George Mraz - now out of print for some years - form the connective tissue of this album saluting the Monteverdi anniversary "in the spirit of jazz".

Monteverdi in the Spirit of Jazz

ACT

Fresu • Galliano • Lundgren
Beirach • Huebner • Mraz
Michael Riessler • Singer Pur
Danilo Rea • Flavio Boltro
Michael Wollny Trio



Beirach's ingenuity in adapting Monteverdi's vivid compositions for a jazz piano trio is, however, just a part of the story. German a capella group Singer Pur bring the epitome of poised choral singing to "Amor - Lamento della Ninfa", accompanied by bass clarinetist Michael Riessler and cellist Vincent Courtois. And an opera album obviously needs its Italians: Pianist Danilo Rea and trumpeter Flavio Boltro make their instruments sing from the heart in the "Toccatà From Orfeo" and "Lasciatemi morire". Radiant, magical classicism with just a glimpse of modernity prevails in "Se nel partir da voi" from pianist Jan Lundgren with Lars Danielsson and the Gustaf Sjökvist Chamber Choir. Lundgren is also in the Mare Nostrum trio, with Paolo Fresu on trumpet and accordionist Richard Galliano. They imbue "Si dolce è il tormento" with the spirit and the heritage of European folk music.

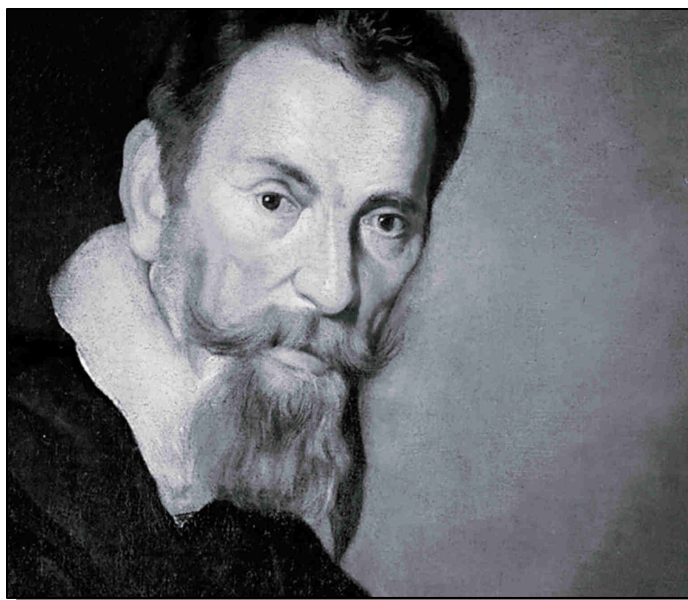
And finally there is Michael Wollny. At the sessions for the immensely popular album "Weltentraum", he and his trio recorded an adaptation of the "Lamento d'Arianna", which epitomizes the coruscating power of current European jazz.

In this age of the cloud, Monteverdi still has much to offer us.



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Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643). Portrait by Bernardo Strozzi, around 1630

01 Se nel partir da voi (arr. by Lundgren) 4:34

Album: *Magnum Mysterium*. Jan Lundgren, piano / Lars Danielsson, bass
The Gustaf Sjökvist Chamber Choir

02 Toccata From Orfeo (arr. by Rea & Boltro) 2:56

Album: *Opera*. Danilo Rea, piano / Flavio Boltro, trumpet

03 Dialog Orfeo Messenger (arr. by Beirach & Huebner) 4:21

Album: *Round About Monteverdi*. Richie Beirach, piano / Gregor Huebner, violin / George Mraz, bass

04 Amor - Lamento della Ninfa 4:54

Album: *Ahi Vita*. Michael Riessler, clarinet / Vincent Courtois, cello / Singer Pur

05 Lamento d'Arianna (Lasciatemi morire) (arr. by Schaefer)* 5:04

Michael Wollny, piano / Tim Lefebvre, bass / Eric Schaefer, drums

06 Around Dialog Orfeo Messenger (arr. by Beirach & Huebner) 3:11

Album: *Round About Monteverdi*. Richie Beirach, piano / Gregor Huebner, violin / George Mraz, bass

07 Si dolce è il tormento (arr. by Fresu) 6:08

Album: *Mare Nostrum II*. Paolo Fresu, trumpet / Richard Galliano, accordion / Jan Lundgren, piano

08 Fantasy On Lamento d'Arianna (arr. by Beirach & Huebner) 4:32

Album: *Round About Monteverdi*. Richie Beirach, piano / Gregor Huebner, violin / George Mraz, bass

09 Lasciatemi morire (arr. by Rea & Boltro) 3:04

Album: *Opera*. Danilo Rea, piano / Flavio Boltro, trumpet

10 Si ch'io vorrei morire 3:02

Album: *Ahi Vita*. Singer Pur: Claudia Reinhard, Klaus Wenk, Markus Zapp, Andreas Hirtreiter,
Guido Heidloff & Marcus Schmidl

11 Orfeo's Lament (arr. by Beirach & Huebner) 7:31

Album: *Round About Monteverdi*. Richie Beirach, piano / Gregor Huebner, violin / George Mraz, bass

12 Lamento d'Arianna (arr. by Beirach & Huebner) 1:38

Album: *Round About Monteverdi*. Richie Beirach, piano / Gregor Huebner, violin / George Mraz, bass

*previously unreleased

Music composed by Claudio Monteverdi

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**Fresu, Galliano & Lundgren
Beirach, Huebner & Mraz
Riessler, Courtois & Singer Pur
Jan Lundgren, Lars Danielsson &
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