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Ted Rosenthal Trio

Impromptu



Playscape Recordings PSR#122109
UPC: 8 84501 34786 0

MUSICIANS

Ted Rosenthal, piano
Noriko Ueda, bass
Quincy Davis, drums

TRACKS

01. Ballade in G minor (J. Brahms) 5:00
02. Nocturne in F minor (F. Chopin) 6:53
03. Impromptu in G flat (F. Schubert) 5:35
04. June (P. Tchaikovsky) 6:10
05. Traumerei (R. Schumann) 7:06
06. Presto (J.S. Bach) 5:47
07. O mio babbino caro (G. Puccini) 6:17
08. Intermezzo in B flat minor (J. Brahms) 7:33
09. Fantasy in D minor (W. A. Mozart) 7:39
10. Theme from Symphony No. 5 (P. Tchaikovsky) 5:27

All arrangements by Ted Rosenthal ©2004-2010

Recorded December 21 and 23, 2009
at Knoop Studio (Riverledge, NJ)

DESCRIPTION

Playscape Recordings officially welcomes back New York-based pianist/composer Ted Rosenthal to its roster with *Impromptu* (PSR#122109), his first recording for the label since 2002. This release finds Rosenthal's two year-old trio, featuring bassist Noriko Ueda and drummer Quincy Davis, reinventing music by Brahms, Chopin, Mozart, Puccini, Schubert, Schumann and Tchaikovsky for the classic jazz piano trio format.

"For the past few years, I have regularly performed my jazz arrangements and improvisations on themes from the classical repertoire, both with my trio and as a soloist," recalls Rosenthal in the liner notes. "My goal is for the music to sound like a natural, unforced jazz presentation. It feels very natural to craft these pieces into forms like that of the Great American Songbook. I like to play them with the ease and familiarity of a favorite standard, and the harmonic progressions lend themselves to similar harmonic re-workings that I do with the American standards. For me, playing jazz on these classical themes is an exciting coming together of traditions."

DISTRIBUTION AND MAJOR SALES POINTS

North Country (USA)
Orkhestra (France)
Disc Union USA (Japan)
GiGi Distribution (Poland)
Distrijazz (Spain)
Plainisphere (Switzerland)
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Impromptu

Ralph Gabriner



ABOUT TED ROSENTHAL

"There aren't many modern jazz pianists more dexterous than Mr. Rosenthal," writes the *New York Times*' Nate Chinen. Critics have called him "a skilled, imaginative artist" (David R. Adler, AllMusic.com) and "an inventive pianist with super chops, mercurial wit and abundant imagination" (Owen McNally, *Hartford Courant*). *Jazz Times*' Harvey Siders notes, his "writing and playing exude a confidence that guarantees he can execute any lick he writes or hears—and it will swing." *AllAboutJazz—New York*'s Elliott Simon adds, "Rosenthal continues to impress as a pianist who, while ostensibly working in the mainstream, consistently infuses his projects with a fresh creative aesthetic."

Born and raised on Long Island, Rosenthal has been an active member of New York's jazz scene since winning the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition in 1988. He soon built on that recognition by touring and recording as a sideman with Jon Faddis, Art Farmer, Benny Golson, James Moody, Gerry Mulligan and Phil Woods among others. A life-long student of both jazz and classical music, he has released 11 diverse recordings under his own name over the past two decades and earned widespread acclaim for his ability to perform a wide variety of material with collaborators ranging from singers to big bands to major symphony orchestras. Also active in jazz education, Rosenthal serves on the faculty of both The Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music and regularly presents clinics all around the world.

Learn more at <http://www.tedrosenthal.com>

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

- ◆ " *Impromptu* documents a complete set of pieces that have been a big part of my recent performances," Rosenthal explains. "Like many jazz pianists I admire, from Fats Waller and Art Tatum to Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock, I feel more connections than divisions between jazz and classical music. As a lifelong student of both genres, I aspire to use all the techniques and expressive elements one can mine from them."
- ◆ Rosenthal has recorded with a variety of trio-mates over the past 20+ years, including Ron Carter, Al Foster, Billy Higgins, Dennis Irwin, George Mraz, Lewis Nash and Matt Wilson. *Impromptu* is the debut of his latest trio, which has been performing these classical arrangements since 2008. The group regularly performs concerts and club dates around New York and has toured Japan twice.
- ◆ This is Rosenthal's third Playscape Recordings release under his own name (he also appears as a sideman on Michael Musillami's *Those Times*), and the natural follow-up to the most recent, 2002's *The Three B's* (PSR#080199), which featured solo piano renditions of music by Bud Powell, Bill Evans and Ludwig van Beethoven. It led *AllAboutJazz—New York*'s Elliott Simon to call him "an expert craftsman and an inventive artist who is most capable when expanding and interweaving circumscribed genres and styles."



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