GLOBE UNITY







Leaking Pipes
Littorina Saxophone Quartet (NoBusiness)
Jeux d'eau
Copenhagen Clarinet Choir &
Anders Lauge Meldgaard (ALM)
Imaginary Cycle
(Music for piano, brass ensemble and flute)
Florian Weber (ECM)

by Daniel A. Brown

Three recent releases from the international jazz realm use foundational instruments to forge music that inhabits the liminal line between jazz combos and avant garde classical chamber ensembles. Musicians as disparate as Chico Hamilton, Brad Mehldau, Bill Dixon, Kelan Philip Cohran and Henry Threadgill have all traversed this open

space—one enticing to brass and reeds players of all nationalities and creeds; this month, we focus on albums propelled by a proverbial "brotherhood of breath," playing a family of clarinet, saxophone and various brass instruments.

Radical Finnish firebrand Mikko Innanen (alto, sopranino, baritone) joins forces (and horn bells) with Maria Faust (alto), Fredrik Ljungkvist

(soprano, tenor) and Liudas Mockūnas (sopranino, soprano, bass saxophone) as the Littorina Saxophone Quartet. Recorded live at Hietsun Paviljonki in Helsinki, the six-track *Leaking Pipes* is free-form music that takes no prisoners. Opener "Kop Kop" moves on melodic buoyancy, upbeat and even manic. "Hells Bells" is the antichrist to Albert Ayler's heaven-aimed songs: a sustained opening from the group blasts into a fiery bellow, then decays outward with a newer, dark motif. The playful lullaby-like "Matkalla Poitiersiin" contrasts with the stern title track, where the assembled players explore synchronous, upper octave wailing conversation.

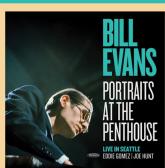
The otherworldly is invoked, celebrated and conveyed within Jeux d'eau, a unique collaboration between the six-piece Copenhagen Clarinet Choir and Danish composer and multiinstrumentalist Anders Lauge Meldgaard. The album is inspired by the curated paradise of the 16th-century fountain gardens of Villa d'Este in Tivoli, Italy – a location that also influenced Franz Liszt and Maurice Ravel, as well as filmmaker Kenneth Anger. The centerpiece of the album's ten tracks is the New Ondomo, a Japanese keyboard (played by Meldgaard) that is based on the Ondes Martenot, a 20th-century synthesizer utilized by Olivier Messiaen. The woody warmth of the clarinets and bass clarinets are the perfect foil for Meldgaard's electronic filigrees. "Entering the fray" and "Xerophyte" are splashes of reed

tones and electronic bleats; the clarinet players clack their instruments' keys to great effect on "Unabashed Waveforms", creating percussive drops resembling water hitting concrete. Not unlike the gardens that inspired its creation, this album is best enjoyed during one uninterrupted sitting.

German pianist-composer Florian Weber is joined by a ten-piece group (including the euphonium-focused Quatuor Opus 33) for Imaginary Cycle (Music for piano, brass ensemble and flute). The hour-long piece contains a prelude, a four-part cycle and an epilogue, and is a successful blending of symphonic counterpoint and abstract textures. Weber's piano explorations are the anchor of "Prelude" and the sonic tryptic, "Opening". The overall mood ascends with the four-part "Word I", which opens with a haunting, minorkey flute solo by Anna-Lena Schnabel; "Word II" boasts herald-like group playing, decaying into the atmospherics of the song's final movements. "Sacrifice" straddles a line between the quasiholy and simmering agitation; "Blessing" features darting brass lines and also dense, drone-like themes. ECM guru-producer Manfred Eicher's signature glossy, glacial production style only adds to the echo-rich ambient journey.

For more info visit nobusiness records.com, copenhagen clarinet choir.bandcamp.com and ecm records.com





BILL EVANS

PORTRAITS AT THE PENTHOUSE: LIVE IN SEATTLE

First official release of Bill Evans live at the Penthouse in Seattle on May 12 & 19, 1966 with Eddie Gomez and Joe Hunt. The limited-edition 180g LP and deluxe CD includes liner notes by Marc Myers and interviews with Gomez, Hunt and piano legend Bob James. Mastered and cut by Matthew Lutthans and pressed at Le Vinylist.

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Unissued recording of the virtuosic multi-instrumentalist recorded live at the Penthouse on September 8 and 15, 1967 with Rahn Burton, Steve Novosel and Jimmy Hopps. Limited- edition 180g 2LP and deluxe CD includes liner notes by authors John Kruth and May Cobb, interviews with James Carter, Chico Freeman Steve Turre, Dorthaan Kirk, Adam Dorn and more!

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EDDIE DANIELS TO MILTON WITH LOVE

The woodwind master's heartfelt tribute to legendary Brazilian musician & composer Milton Nascimento. Features Anthony Wilson, Josh Nelson, Kevin Axt & Ray Brinker, plus the Lyris String Quartet. To Milton is a recreation of Nascimento's second studio album, Courage (1969, CTI). Booklet includes liner notes by author James Gavin. Produced by Resonance founder George Klabin.