

**JESPER THILO QUINTET
PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON**



CD 1025-2



COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

BIEM/nCb

- 1 Duke's Place 4:43 2 Sophisticated Lady 6:32 3 Perdido 6:07
- 4 Blue Light 4:46 5 What Am I Here For 6:02
- 6 Prelude To A Kiss 4:53 7 Caravan 4:55
- 8 I Got It Bad 6:33 9 Things Aint What They Used To Be 7:12
- 10 The Starcrossed Lovers 4:54 11 Cotton Tail 4:10
- 12 Mood Indigo 5:55

WE LOVE HIM MADLY...

JESPER THILO QUINTET

PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON

- ★ Svend-Erik Norregaard
drums
- ★ Jesper Thilo
tenorsax
- ★ Ann Farholt
vocal
- ★ Hugo Rasmussen
bass
- ★ Soren Kristiansen
piano



JESPER THILO QUINTET PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON

"I feel that I'm somehow trying to amalgamate Ben Webster, Dexter Gordon and Brew Moore in my style of playing – time will show if I ever succeed."

Told Jesper Thilo in an interview by Danish tenor colleague Arne Astrup (also renowned jazz discographer) to the Jazz Journal International (August 1990).

Modesty? Time had already then shown that he has succeeded. So does this cd.

As long as Jesper remembers he has been surrounded by music. His grandfather on his mother's side was the very popular conductor of the Promenade Orchestra and the Wind Band at the Tivoli Gardens, Mr. Hjalmar Koefoed. Sometimes Jesper would accompany grandad to work and, as he put it, sniff the atmosphere amongst the musicians in the canteen.

Jesper's mother was a pianist and a collector of Duke Ellington's recordings, so already as a kid Jesper learned to love him madly.

There were no saxophones in the Tivoli wind bands, but when he, eleven years old, first heard that strange instrument he immediately fell madly in love with it too. That developed into a really true love. The first encounter happened at the former National Scala. He was there with his parents. He did not enjoy neither the Danish open with liver paste on it nor the music. He even doesn't remember the band, but he does remember the little grey-haired man playing that peculiar bent horn. He wanted himself one for his next birthday, and his beloved parents gave him one, and they also gave him a record by a saxophone player, the late Earl Bostic, who became Jesper's first main influence.

That alto, a Buescher, was the begin-

ning of a tremendous career. To quote Benny Carter: "If Jesper Thilo wanted to emigrate to the States, he would in no time be among the foremost on his instrument."

Jesper Thilo is an all-round musician, educated at the Royal Conservatory of Copenhagen on the clarinet. He even has been flirting with free jazz, but the mainstream is also his stream. He started as a traditional musician in his early teens at the Cap Horn pub in Nyhavn down by the "riverside" of Copenhagen:

"I don't think I was more than fourteen playing there for the first time. We played up to ten hours a night. But that was no problem then. It was all fun. I never wanted to do anything else, I told myself. I wanted to be there forever."

Well, he didn't stay there forever. But he stayed – thank God – in the music business. To make a long story short: Find it yourself in Politikkens Jazzleksikon or in the New Grove Dictionary of Jazz.

One of Jesper's most outstanding gurus was the late Ben Webster. Among the numbers from the Ellington repertoire on this cd you will find and enjoy Cotton Tail. Jesper knows Ben's classic solo from 1940 by heart – yes by heart. There is a story about that. Let Jesper tell it himself:

"I played in the Niels Jørgen Steen Beat Kapel at the old Montmartre in Copenhagen and I saw Ben coming in together with Stuff Smith. They stayed in the bar having a lot of drinks behind them and before them. Said Niels Jørgen: "Let him have it!" And I did it. Stuff was grinning his ass off. Ben stared at me with a strange look in his eyes. Then he came up to me and I could feel that he was a little grumpy. You know, it's an unwritten rule: Never steal a solo. It's o.k. to let somebody inspire you, but to steal a solo is to cross the borderline, a deadly sin. But Ben and I made very good friends."

One of Jesper's secrets is that he never steals. Well, he needn't.

Birger Jørgensen

Produced by: Music Mecca, Koebmagergade 25, DK-1150 Copenhagen K., Denmark.
Phone: (+45) 33 11 10 15. Fax: (+45) 33 14 75 12. Write for free catalogue.
Music Mecca is producing compact discs with jazz.
Music Mecca is also a shop with the best selection of jazz in Scandinavia.

JESPER THILO QUINTET

PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON

- 1 Duke's Place (Ellington/Bigard) 4:43
- 2 Sophisticated Lady (Ellington) 6:32
- 3 Perdido (Lenk/Drake/Tizol) 6:07
- 4 Blue Light (Ellington) 4:46
- 5 What Am I Here For (Ellington) 6:02
- 6 Prelude To A Kiss (Ellington) 4:53
- 7 Caravan (Ellington/Tizol/Mills) 4:55
- 8 I Got It Bad (Ellington/Webster) 6:33
- 9 Things Aint What They Used To Be (M. Ellington) 7:12
- 10 The Starcrossed Lovers (Strayhorn) 4:54
- 11 Cotton Tail (Ellington) 4:10
- 12 Mood Indigo (Ellington/Bigard/Mills) 5:55

Recorded in Sweet Silence Studios, Copenhagen,
April 17, 18, 19, 1992.

Engineer: Michael "Miller" Olsen.

Produced by: Jesper Thilo.

Mixed by: Jesper Thilo & Hugo Rasmussen.

Cover design: Kjeld Brandt.

Cover photo: Anders Boll

Sponsored by:



Kreditforeningen
Danmark



CD 1025-2

JESPER THILO QUINTET PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON

- 1 Duke's Place (Ellington/Bigard) 4:43
- 2 Sophisticated Lady (Ellington) 6:32
- 3 Perdido (Lenk/Drake/Tizol) 6:07
- 4 Blue Light (Ellington) 4:46
- 5 What Am I Here For (Ellington) 6:02
- 6 Prelude To A Kiss (Ellington) 4:53
- 7 Caravan (Ellington/Tizol/Mills) 4:55
- 8 I Got It Bad (Ellington/Webster) 6:33
- 9 Things Aint What They Used To Be (M. Ellington) 7:12
- 10 The Starcrossed Lovers (Strayhorn) 4:54
- 11 Cotton Tail (Ellington) 4:10
- 12 Mood Indigo (Ellington/Bigard/Mills) 5:55

Recorded in Sweet Silence Studios, Copenhagen,
April 17, 18, 19, 1992.
Engineer: Michael "Miller" Olsen.
Produced by: Jesper Thilo.
Mixed by: Jesper Thilo & Hugo Rasmussen.
Cover design: Kjeld Brandt.
Cover photo: Anders Boll

Sponsored by:



Kreditforeningen
Danmark

5 708564 102523



COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

**TOTAL
PLAYING
TIME**
67:17



CD 1025-2