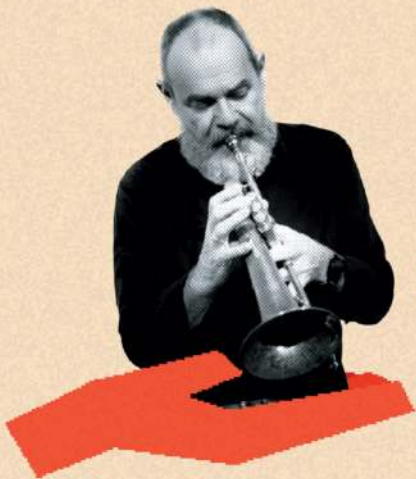
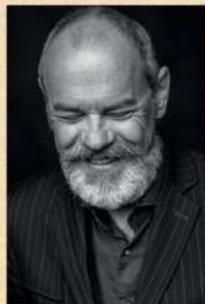


A HANDFUL OF STORIES



A HANDFUL OF STORIES - A PERSONAL NOTE

by Angelo Verploegen



It's not really in my nature to look back. For me, being a musician is mainly about staying in shape, preparing for upcoming projects, and finding an outlet for my inspiration and ideas. So, it's a constant flow of forward motion. But... turning 60 last year suddenly led me to look back, to reflect on what I've been doing all these years.

In this moment of retrospection, I felt the urge to select some of the compositions I've written over the past 25 years for various formations and occasions and perform them with a classical jazz quintet lineup. Now, if I could interest Jared and Jonas Sacks in recording this project for Just Listen Records, we would have a handful of musicians for our fifth (yet another handful!) album together.

And things worked out! I feel extremely happy and privileged to have done this with a group of outstanding musicians: saxophonist Nils van Haften, pianist Marc van Roon, bassist Guus Bakker, and drummer Jasper van Hulten, along with the Just Listen crew. All of the (a little over a handful) original compositions presented here tell their own story:

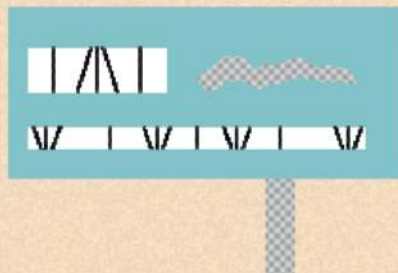


HUB'S HUB

This track, which first appeared on “The Art of Traveling Light” (Just Listen Records JLO23) in a slim version, was written to celebrate the life and work of Hub van Laar, a Dutch master trumpet and flugelhorn developer/constructor and a dear friend. His workshop in the southern part of the Netherlands is an inspiring meeting place where I met fellow trumpeters from all over the world. Hub passed away in December 2022, and this track is a loving memory of him.

BRAD'S FEAST

This composition came to me the morning after hearing the Brad Mehldau Trio perform for the first time at the Amsterdam Bimhuis. The magical performance put me in such a lasting state of happiness that the melody and upbeat 12/8 groove just popped into my mind while I was riding my bike, taking the kids to school on a beautiful autumn morning. I've recorded this song several times in different line-ups, but this is the first quintet rendition.





MONKY BUSINESS

One of the projects I hope to work on in the near future is a program around the music of Thelonious Monk, one of the most intriguing and prolific jazz composers and pianists. Inspired by his typical musical style, I came up with this piece.



KIKKER EN DE HORIZON (FROG AND THE HORIZON)

This is an original quintet piece, written for the Tony Overwater Quintet to accompany a story by Max Velthuijs, a writer and illustrator of children's books featuring animal characters. We played numerous theater shows together, presenting his stories and drawings with our music. This story is about Frog, who overestimates and romanticizes the art of traveling. He insists on joining the highly qualified traveler Rat, and their misadventures result in Frog experiencing homesickness, from which he recovers remarkably soon when they head back home. The two contrasting melodies of this composition represent the actual movement of traveling and the steadiness of being in one place. In the middle part Frog and Rat spent the night in the open, which frightens Frog quite a bit.



FILE UNDER EXIT

We all have to come up with our own *rhythm changes* at some point. Here are mine, with a few minor twists. I chose this title for it since it was the last track of the trio album “The Art of Traveling Light.”

LITTLE DANCER

This piece is from the pen of the highly esteemed trumpeter/composer Tom Harrell. I wanted to include a suitable jazz standard in the repertoire, and this one immediately came to mind when my grandchild was born last January. The song expresses so much joy and liveliness and is so much fun to play. It's also the title track of the duo album "Little Dancer" that I recorded for Just Listen Records with pianist Jeroen van Vliet, containing songs of love, hope, and comfort for the next generation.





BY THE END OF THE DAY

This is the most recent composition on this album, offering a moody reflection on our times.

OTHER AVAILABLE TITLES BY ANGELO VERPLOEGEN ON JUST LISTEN RECORDS



WHEN NIGHT FALLS (JLO26)

Angelo Verploegen,
Ed Verhoeff, Eric van
der Westen (2022)



THE ART OF TRAVELING LIGHT (JLO23)

Angelo Verploegen,
Wim Bronnenberg,
Jasper van Hulten
(2020)



THE DUKE BOOK (JLO19)

Angelo Verploegen,
Jasper van Hulten
(2019)



THE SWEETEST SOUND (JLO09)

Angelo Verploegen,
Ed Verhoeff, Eric van
der Westen (2018)

COLOFON

Producer: Jared Sacks, Jonas Sacks, Angelo Verploegen

Label Management: Jara Holdert

Recording engineer, editing, mixing, mastering: Jared Sacks

Higher Rates Program Mastering Engineer, NativeDSD.com: Tom Caulfield

Portrait Photography: Ton Pors (cover), Rob Becker (booklet)

Cover and booklet design: Diederik van den Brandt
(Brandt New Artwork)

Liner notes: Angelo Verploegen

Recording location: MCO, Hilversum, Netherlands

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Microphones: Brüel & Kjær 4006, Schoeps,

Digital converter: DSD256 Horus, Merging Technologies

Cables: Van den Hul 3T

Editing Software: Pyramix, Merging Technologies

Mastering Room Speakers: Grimm LSI

Recorded in Direct Stream Digital [DSD256] on Sept 2nd,
2023 at MCO Studio 2 in Hilversum, The Netherlands

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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