



eric vloeimans
u m a i

featuring

john taylor
furio di castri
joe labarbera



SA CHR 75061

recorded, mixed,
and mastered at
studio le roy, amsterdam
by chris weeda

produced by
hein van de geyn

art direction/design
arthur van hamersveld
and dolphin design

liner notes
by john taylor

production coordination
by anne de jong

photography by
jan metselaar [eric]
joost leijen [john, joe]
jacqueline specken [furio]

www.vloeimans.demon.nl

John Taylor appears
courtesy of ECM records.



john taylor
[piano]



furio di castri
[bass]



joe labarbera
[drums]

One thing that makes the music on this recording exceptional is of course that it could only have been played by these four musicians. Each one is an individual with his own sound, his own approach to improvising and each has his own musical experience to draw from. Another thing that makes it remarkable is the attitude and inspiration of the quartet's leader and composer. Eric leads without dominating, sharing his compositions and ideas with his partners in such a way that allows each one the freedom to contribute their own ideas and inventions to the whole. Last, but not least, is Eric's wonderfully adventurous trumpet playing and his humanity.

So I was really pleased when Eric invited me to play with him on this date. We had first recorded together 'Bitches and fairy tales' on a very exciting day in New York two years ago but this time Eric and Alice Arwert had organised a short tour of Holland and this date took place during it. It was significant this time

to be on Eric's home ground with this new group and to have enough time to engage in the new repertoire he had prepared for the project.

I've known Furio for a long time and very much admire his warm sound and virtuosity. We played a lot in Italy with the trumpet players Enrico Rava and Paolo Fresu. I'd loved Joe's perceptive and exciting drumming with Bill Evans and I had the opportunity to play a European tour with him and Kenny Wheeler in 1993. Curiously enough Joe and I teamed up with Furio to make a quartet recording with Kenny later the same year. (So trumpeters are definitely our friends, we love them!)

Which leads me to Eric, someone who is always a pleasure to be with, who plays beautiful music with such strength and vitality. Naturally I look forward very much to our next collaboration.

John Taylor
20th August 2000

Of the dutch trumpeters who have created a furor the past decade Eric Vloeimans is musically one of the most eloquent. He has firmly established himself as an international musician and performs in various formations where most settings are of great demand. Just as a good orator, he continuously holds the attention of the listener. His musical argument is clear, varied, visual, sensitive, sometimes humorous and always well structured. The press calls Vloeimans a trumpet player who always puts emotion above technical virtuosity. With playful ease he changes from a quiet sonorous tone to a skillful powerful play, however never losing sight of the structure of his performance and the emotion in the music.

As a teacher and musician he has achieved a level of reputation where he is able to share the stage with "big" names and wasn't the sideman anymore. Parallel to this development, Eric Vloeimans has developed himself as a composer. Eric's need to

not tie himself down dogmatically to a certain style is also self-evident in his writing. Fresh and original but with a great feeling and respect for the tradition, and maybe the most important thing, a great portion of self-knowledge and through that never aimed too high. At the moment, Eric finds himself in a turbulent period. He recorded in September 1998 the album "Bitches and Fairy Tales" in New York for Challenge Records in co-operation with De Wereldomroep with an All Star cast; John Taylor, Marc Johnson and Joey Baron. The album is distinguished with an Edison Award at the North Sea Jazzfestival 1999. The "Transatlantic Quartet" tour in March and April 2000 is a continuation of "Bitches and Fairy Tales". Once more an international cast with John Taylor on the piano, Furio di Castri on the bass and Joe LaBarbera on drums. Eric Vloeimans specially wrote for this cast a new repertoire which is recorded for this CD "Umai".

Thanks to:

John, Furio and Joe for being so totally
supportive and into the music

My producer Hein van de Geyn for letting me
free in what I want and supporting me as
always so well

Chris Weeda who putted my best sound ever
on cd

The Challenge crew: Anne de Jong, Joost
Leijten, Colette Pannemans and Frits Helkoo

Fonds voor de scheppende toonkunst

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such a great help putting the right material
together for my trumpet

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friendship

Arthur van Hamersveld for his enthusiasm and
vision that resulted in this great artwork

Harmen Fraanje for his very special musical
friendship and for giving me such good advices
in my compositions

My parents Ad en Riet Vloeimans for always
trusting me and giving me the space and
support I needed for being who I am now

Jacqueline, you are the best thing ever
happened to me. Thanks for your love and
friendship



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tracks: 1 dreamland [jeroen van vliet 4:14] 2 four winds [dave holland 4:34] 3 zorro [5:39] 4 c.h. [5:58] 5 umai [5:33] 6 bradshaw [4:19] 7 villa borghese [15:46] 8 duet #1 [eric vloeimans/john taylor 4:07] 9 summersault [4:30] 10 isis [6:15] 11 roadmovie [4:13] 12 intro to requiem [furio di castri 1:45] 13 requiem 5:10

total time: 72:09 all compositions by Eric Vloeimans except when mentioned otherwise