



BATIK

The Old Man and the Sea

"Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated"
(*Ernest Hemingway*)

Ed Verhoeff - electric guitar
Wolfert Brederode - piano
Mark Haanstra - electric bass
Joost Lijbaart - drums

01. The Old Man (05:33)
02. The African Dream (05:53)
03. The Fishermen (07:23)
04. The Bird (07:37)
05. The Catch (03:37)
06. The Fish (02:45)
07. The Sharks (03:31)
08. The Defeat (04:58)
09. The Harbour (03:42)

Total time: 44:59

Catalog Number: SL-1008A

Original recording format **PCM 96kHz**. All other formats are converted versions of the original.

Batik - The Old Man and the Sea

With the Suite; The Old Man and the Sea, the new ensemble Batik, presents them self, with a piece of music, that vividly brings to life Ernest Hemingway's classic tale of the old fisherman. Batik has composed and improvised a dramatic story telling Soundscape around the key elements of the novel.

Like the famous fabric from the Far East the music of Batik consist of multicolored lines creating fascinating patterns, blending traditional forms with new ideas and letting spontaneous interaction merge the elements into a very original sound. BATIK is the latest brainchild of Wolfert Brederode (ECM recording artist) and Joost Lijbaart (Yuri Honing). With guitarist Ed Verhoeff and bass guitarist Mark Haanstra (two of the most in demand musicians on the European scene) they have formed a quartet capable of visual and inventive music making.



Joost, Wolfert, Ed and Mark.

The 9 pieces of music were performed live in the studio in front of a select audience. The musicians were placed in front of a stereo pair of microphones with additional spot microphones on each instrument. The musicians were playing without headphones, the reason being that we believe that when we get the musicians to play together in the same room, without headphones, it creates a number of musical and technical benefits:

As they are not "separated" by the headphones, the musicians, in order to hear each other are forced to create a natural and musical balance, a balance which is then easily captured by the main stereo pair of microphones. Because of the natural and musical balance the need for compression to control levels is no longer necessary. Since everybody is in the same room, the boxed sound which is so common in many modern recordings is absent and the sound of the room helps "glue" the sound of the recording.



This is all very well but there are also problematic aspects to this procedure:
The room (studio) has to have a good sound.
The musicians have to be very good and well prepared as it is very difficult to repair mistakes because of the "cross talk" between the instruments.

We have to be very precise when choosing and placing the microphones and the puzzle of placing the musicians at the right distance to the main stereo microphones and the right distance to each other, is also time consuming.

And when we have a live audience in the studio, we pray that they remember to turn off their cell phones and the ones with a bad cold choose to stay at home.

The room where the recordings has been done is the now legendary Studio Eleven situated in the building of the Dutch World Broad Casting Service. The Studio was used extensively in the 60's by European and visiting American jazz musicians like Wes Montgomery, Cannonball Adderley, Dexter Gordon and Eric Dolphy. The Dutch World Broad Casting Service asked Frans de Rond to bring the room back to life as a recording studio and Frans, after seeing and hearing the room, jumped at the opportunity. Sound Liaison has been allowed to use the room for our audiophile projects and we are eternally great full to the Dutch World Service for this opportunity.



Used equipment:

Microphones:

Guitar: Audio Technica 4080

Piano: Neumann TLM 170

Bas: Avenson Audio IsoDI, JZV67

Drums: SE Rn17 - overheads and JZ V67 - bassdrum

Main system - Schoeps MK5 (AB)

Micpre's: RME Micstasy (Analog > MADI)

Microphone cables: Grimm Audio TPR

Mixing headphones: Sennheiser HD800

Mixing speakers: Grimm Audio LS1

Master clock: Grimm Audio CC1

Photo cover: Milan Bjornild