



Witmer Trio En Azul

"Melody is king, and don't you ever forget it"
(Quincy Jones)

Cajan Witmer - piano
Han Slinger - double bass
Maarten kruijswijk - drums

01. The Gentle Rain (04:56)
02. Rhapsody In Blue (Rapsodia En Azul) (04:07)
03. Recado (03:41)
04. New York State Of Mind (04:04)
05. Moon River (04:01)
06. Moonglow (03:21)
07. Carioca (02:41)
08. Gone With The Wind (04:17)
09. St. Louis Blues (03:46)
10. Undecided (04:16)
11. Savor A Mi (05:32)

Total time: 44:42

Catalog Number: SL-1017A

All arrangements by Cajan Witmer

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

Witmer Trio

The real challenge for a musician
once he has mastered his instrument
learned all about harmony and rhythm
absorbed the music of the masters that came before him
and found his own voice
the real challenge is one that in itself sounds very simple
place yourself in complete service of the music at hand
and play only what the music is asking for
but as every musician will tell you this is the most difficult of all musical challenges.

So many musicians these days are emphasizing the improvisation at the cost of the melody, with the result that "you got no melody to remember, and no beat to dance to"....(Louis Armstrong)



Cajan Witmer came up with the idea of recording a collection of songs, with the focus primarily on the melody and have every improvisation and embellishment being inspired by the song itself.

Witmer's almost vocal presentation of the melody and refined melodic improvisations, Slinger's lyrical touch and strong secure rhythmic feel combined with Kruiswijk's inventive drum patterns, which on some songs resembles 3 subtle percussion players instead of one drumset, are fulfilling the task admirably. Cajan Witmer and his companions, bassist Han Slinger and drummer Maarten Kruiswijk, has worked together for 21 years, and the empathy they feel for each other is evident throughout this recording.

When creating the sound stage, we spent a great deal of time getting the balance of the trio as optimal as possible using the ambient microphone stereo pair placed in the "sweet spot" in studio 2, before adding the spot microphones.

We wanted to create a sound field that was intimate but also with enough depth to have a visual representation of the instruments.

In a sense we adopted the same philosophy as Cajan Witmer in his arrangements, we wanted the melodic part of each instrument to stand out but not overshadow the whole, thus the piano and the drums have been given a position in the sound field, not spread out Left to Right as are more common in commercial recordings.

The benefit with this approach is that you can actually see the trio in front of you between the speakers, standing left to right, instead of the more common, commercial radio friendly approach, with the instruments piled on top of each other. In a sense we are old fashioned, maybe we listened to too many old jazz recordings, but on the other hand.....

"The memory of things gone is important to a jazz musician. Things like old folks singing in the moonlight in the back yard on a hot night or something said long ago." (Louis Armstrong)

Recorded on March 15th and March 16th, 2015 in Studio 2 of the Muziekgebouw van de Omroep in Hilversum.

Used equipment:

Microphones:

Cajan: 2x Schoeps MSTC 64 (ORTF)

Han: 2x Neumann M149

Maarten: 2x Sonore RCM-402 (overheads), JZ V69 (basdrum)

Main system: Schoeps MK5 (AB)

Micpre's: Micstasy (Analog > MADI)

Microphone cables: AudioQuest

Speakers: Grimm Audio LS1

Master clock: Grimm Audio CC1

Mixing headphones: AKG 702 / Sennheiser HD800

Mixing speakers: Grimm Audio LS1, TAD Compact Reference

Photo cover: Milan Bjornild