

ACT**CHRISTOF LAUER**Christof Lauer
BLUES IN MIND
Michel Godard
Gary Husband

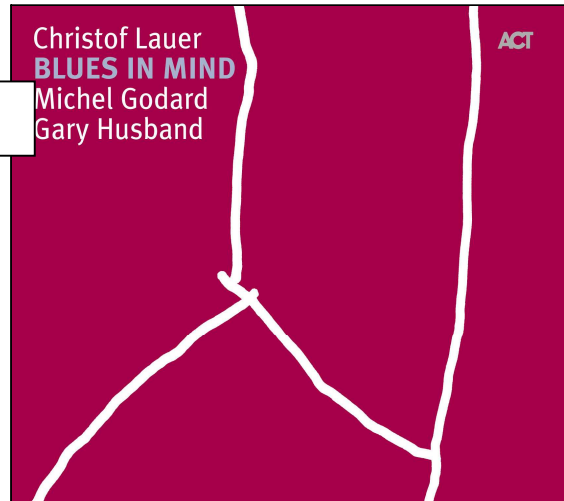
ACT

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ACT 9446-2

German Release Date: January 5, 2007

LC 07644



Sensuous radiance of the soul

Three great jazz-individualists show the expanse of their colour palette: The new CD of the Christof Lauer Trio

It is hard to find an artist whose expressive quality rivals that of Christof Lauer. He has a unique ability to colour his tone; one moment he lets rip with the explosive intensity of a sandblaster, and in the next instant his sound has a pale and distant quality. Moreover, these changes are never used for sheer effect, they are rather the tonal expression of a subtle and varied emotional experience.

One thing is for sure: Very few musicians can offer as much intensity as Christof Lauer, as these recordings with his new trio aptly demonstrate. The flexibility of the fascinatingly matched partners and the scope of the compositions enable Lauer to express all aspects of his art in this new trio. German Lauer, Frenchman Michel Godard (who is not *just* a tuba player) and British drummer Gary Husband (who is not *just* a drummer) all contribute compositions to this CD of exclusively original material – pieces that open up a great variety of worlds. Each track offers new colours and tonal hues, held together by the authority of the three players.

This international ensemble of virtuoso musicians offers the added attraction that each musician plays two different instruments. Godard is a tuba player, but equally competent on the historical serpent, a slightly hoarse-sounding, snakelike exotic monster, a precursor to the ophicleides made from wood covered in leather. Husband is an excellent drummer and a good pianist as well and Lauer's playing on soprano and tenor sax is so different in character, that we may justifiably speak of two different instruments. A trio of numerous possibilities this is, as the eleven tracks on this CD show - music with driving rhythm, lyrical with an angular edge and suffused with a soulful and strangely foreign beauty.

Michel Godard's ostinato tuba grooves leave their mark on some of the pieces – driving, bouncing lines that excite and casually demonstrate that he is endowed with quite a breath (Listen to track 1 "Un regalo per natale"!), as does the dark whisper of the serpent (track 5 "Suave sospiro" - "Sweet Sigh" - an apt title for the piece; composers of an earlier age, which found the sound of the serpent "too raw" just hadn't had a chance to hear Godard). Gary Husband creates wide-open spaces in his rare but extensive piano introductions (tracks 5 and 9). As a drummer, partner and accompanist he is equally a master of space, characterized by his variety of colours, both with sticks and brushes, by his eruptive power and attention to fine detail. In "Pan Fatigué" (track 3) – a tired god Pan whose musical seduction nonetheless permeates every reed – Godard and Husband let their leader demonstrate impressively that a solo saxophone sounds anything but dry when played by Lauer. In "The Kite" (track 2) the tenor sax sails higher and higher. Lauer's playing continuously shows a sensuous radiance of the soul, even when he draws finely lyrical patterns with the soprano saxophone, patterns that develop a wholly different temperature than his lines on the lower instrument.

This team is all the more convincing because each of the three partners has ample room to show his profile. It is highly fascinating to watch these players grow into a whole and inspire each other. Their interaction is so alert that the playing sometimes seems to emanate from a single instrument. And it is continually exciting to follow their stories, whether they tell of sweet sighs, of slightly indisposed gods or of a kite winding higher and higher into the sky. Intensity, concision and abundance of surprise – three great qualities in a trio.

ACT**CHRISTOF LAUER****The CD:**

Christof Lauer – Blues In Mind – ACT 9446-2 – LC 07644

Line Up:

Christof Lauer – soprano & tenor saxophone

Michel Godard – tuba & serpent

Gary Husband – drums & piano

Tracks:

1 Un regalo per natale (Michel Godard) 4:57 2 The Kite (Christof Lauer) 6:43
 3 Pan Fatigué (Christof Lauer) 6:08 4 First Bite (Gary Husband) 6:10 5 Suave sospiro (Michel Godard) 5:30
 6 At Least (Christof Lauer) 2:42 7 Blues In Mind (Christof Lauer) 5:22 8 Circe (Christof Lauer) 1:48
 9 Angels Over City Square (Gary Husband) 7:43 10 De Cuir et de Cuivre (Michel Godard) 4:01
 11 One Prayer (Gary Husband) 5:55

Produced by Christof Lauer

Executive Producer: Siegfried Loch

Recorded at Zerkall Studio on April 23-25, 2006 by Walter Quintus.

Mixed and mastered by Walter Quintus.

Christof Lauer on ACT:

ACT 9429-2 ROAD MOVIES

Eric Watson – Christof Lauer Quartet

ACT 9420-2 HEAVEN

Christof Lauer with Rebekka Bakken, Sondre Bratland & Norwegian Brass

ACT 9415-2 PURE JOY

Christof Lauer & Jens Thomas

ACT 9297-2 SHADOWS IN THE RAIN Christof Lauer & Jens Thomas with Sidsel Endresen u.a.

ACT 9266-2 FRAGILE NETWORK Christof Lauer with Michel Godard, Marc Ducret, Anthony Cox, Gene Jackson
 Received the the German Record Critics' Award 1999

ACT SACD 9804-2 EUROPEANA

Joachim Kühn / Michael Gibbs with Christof Lauer a.o.

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