Selling Points:
Vijay Iyer - Prasanna - Nitin Mitta
Tirtha
ACT 9503-2

Tirtha is the name of a phenomenal trio featuring three powerhouse musicians: Indian-American pianist-composer Vijay Iyer, Chennai (formerly Madras)-born guitarist-composer Prasanna, and Hyderabad native and tabla player Nitin Mitta.

2011 US GRAMMY nominee Vijay Iyer is one of today's most acclaimed and respected young American jazz artists. He received the Musician of the Year award in the 2010 Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards, the 2010 ECHO Award (the "German Grammy") for best international ensemble with his trio, and the Downbeat Critics Poll for rising star jazz group of the year. His latest recordings on the ACT label include Solo (2010) and the trio album Historicity (2009). Historicity was named jazz album of the year by The New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio, the annual Village Voice jazz critics poll, and the Downbeat International Critics Poll.

Tirtha achieves a profound interplay of melody and rhythm that characterizes the best jazz, combining the elemental directness of rock, the chamber-like intimacy of raga, and bebop's hard, angular drive.

On "Tirtha" you hear the distinctly South Indian, meticulous ornamentations of Prasanna's guitar in dialogue with Iyer's gloriously spacious harmonic palette, and Mitta's superbly crisp Hindustani (north Indian classical) grooves and virtuosic, grounding presence. You hear familiar structural elements of jazz, Hindustani, and Carnatic music. However, the group completely shuns any musical clichés or previously heard "fusions" of those genres.