



## CHARLES MINGUS AT BREMEN 1964 & 1975

SSC 1570 - 4 DISCS DIGIPAK & BOOKLET  
STREET DATE 11/13/20

The great bassist and composer Charles Mingus had his diehard supporters and detractors. His explosive intermingling of devil may care attitude, imposing character and aggressive music was sure to rub some listeners the wrong way and was just as likely to attract adventurous fans. But his genius could not be denied; it just may have taken some time to break down barriers.

A good way to examine this change in listener attitudes is to investigate the differences in critical appraisals from two performances in the port city of Bremen, Germany, a decade apart. The initial performance in 1964 introduced Mingus's firebrand ways to an unsuspecting audience while his 1975 appearance was met with the expectancy of jazz royalty. The performances appear in their **first official release remastered from the original source tapes** on *Charles Mingus @ Bremen 1964 & 1975*.



## JOE CASTRO PASSION FLOWER - FOR DORIS DUKE

SSC 1393 - 6 ALBUMS & BOOKLET BOXED SET  
STREET DATE 11/20/20

The initial Joe Castro boxed set, *Lush Life - A Musical Journey* (Sunnyside, 2015), provided an insight into the world of the pianist's early meetings with the greats of jazz at home recorded sessions. These recordings included Buddy Collette, Chico Hamilton, Teddy Wilson, Stan Getz, Zoot Sims and Lucky Thompson, a Castro Big Band and the Teddy Edwards Tentet.

The second boxed set of recordings from Joe Castro's collection, *Passion Flower - For Doris Duke*, highlights his collaborations with a vast array of great musicians (Paul Bley, Paul Motian, Leroy Vinnegar, Paul Chambers, Philly Joe Jones, Cannonball Adderley). There are fine home recordings of jam sessions, studio recordings of Castro's Atlantic Records releases, recordings of projects of friends and productions that were done under the aegis of Clover Records, the label that Duke and Castro founded and briefly ran.



## KRISTIANA ROEMER HOUSE OF MIRRORS

SSC 1597 - STREET DATE 11/27/20

Bassist Alex Claffy's enthusiasm for collaboration motivated Roemer to push through the production of *House of Mirrors*. Roemer set up recording dates and they brought on pianist Addison Frei and drummer Adam Arruda. Roemer also benefited from great contributions

by guitarists Ben Monder and Gilad Hekselman, saxophonist Dayna Stephens, and percussionist Rogerio Boccato.

The music of Kristiana Roemer comes from an honest place, a place of appraisals of actions and embracing all potential paths, whether taken or not. Her *House of Mirrors* is a diverse and brilliantly devised program of music that illustrates where Roemer has been and where she will go in her bright future.

www.sunnysiderecords.com



## Songs From Home Fred Hersch (Palmetto) by Dan Bilawsky

Positivity was in short supply when COVID-19 forced all into isolation back in March, but Fred Hersch still managed to inject a little beauty into each afternoon. Hunkered down in his home in rural Pennsylvania, the celebrated pianist offered serious solace with nearly two months of "Tune of the Day" performances on Facebook. At some point those benefactions began to sew themselves into the fabric of our times, so it's only fitting that that daily experience would blossom into the creation of an album for the present and posterity.

*Songs From Home* serves as a respite from the madness of the moment. There are places where markers of his tremendous technical abilities are apparent, but the overall effort is one connected to the concept of balmy beauty. Essentially without peer when it comes to enrapturing ears with reflective grace, Hersch uses 88 keys to engender innumerable emotions tethered to a single reality. On a plaintive rendering of Frederick Loewe-Alan Jay Lerner's "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" he envisions a moment when we can gather again and gain comfort in company. With an expansive yet loyal trip through Joni Mitchell's "All I Want" his hands speak true to *Blue*. And in Duke Ellington's "Solitude" he taps into the essence of the composer's vision with an empathetic nod.

While Hersch acknowledges some minor deficiencies with his 50-year-old, seven-foot Steinway Model B, the communion between the two, reflecting lives lived together in service to music, is as much the story of this album as anything else. Hersch shows a true familiarity with the landscape, which adds another layer of meaning to what he creates. Whether flowing and growing through his "Sarabande", blending the familial and the folk in a marriage of the maternally-moored "West Virginia Rose" with "The Water Is Wide" or proving suave on a stride ride through Turner Layton's timeless "After You've Gone", he shows a degree of commitment and understanding that speaks volumes about the setting and current state of affairs.

For more information, visit [palmetto-records.com](http://palmetto-records.com). Hersch live-streams Nov. 6th-7th at [villageanguard.com](http://villageanguard.com).



## Rock Chalk Suite Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (Blue Engine) by Phil Freeman

The *Rock Chalk Suite* was commissioned in 2018 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Lied Center, a performing arts space on the campus of the University of Kansas. The suite honors the school's basketball team, the Jayhawks, with each of its 15 pieces paying tribute to a different legendary player. Basketball is one of the sports most commonly compared to jazz; boxing is another and of course avant garde jazz has

been described as "like playing tennis without a net". Wynton Marsalis writes that both the game and the music "reward improvisation and split-second decision making against the pressure of time and the restriction of a clearly defined geometric form."

The various dedicatees on this album include James Naismith, the inventor of basketball as we know it today; Lynette Woodard, one of the greatest female basketball players; and Wilt Chamberlain. Each piece was written by a different member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and some are more adventurous than others, but the ensemble's collective identity shines through them all. "Phog Allen" is quite playful; it begins with the horns imitating the squeak of sneakers on the floor, as the bass drum mimics a ball being dribbled. Then a shrill whistle blows and the tune proper begins. The drum break leading into Marsalis' stagger-stepping trumpet solo on "D(efense)-Up: The Untold Story of Darnell Valentine" delivers a particularly potent bolt of energy. That piece is followed by "The Truth (for Paul Pierce)", a strolling blues written by alto saxophonist Sherman Irby that lets the baritone saxophone rumble like the bass singer in a doo-wop group as Chris Crenshaw delivers a passionate lyric about the player in question.

The orchestrations are rich and full throughout; they've got a forceful, deeply bluesy swing that recalls Duke Pearson as much as Duke Ellington. It should be noted, as well, that despite this existing as a form of "program music", intended to conjure images of events - some as specific as a single shot from a game - it is absolutely enjoyable even for a listener with zero knowledge of or interest in basketball.

For more information, visit [blueenginerecords.org](http://blueenginerecords.org). Marsalis live-streams Nov. 5th at [jazzatlincolncenter.squarespace.com](http://jazzatlincolncenter.squarespace.com).

RECOMMENDED NEW RELEASES

- Orhan Demir - *Freedom in Jazz, Vol. 2 (Solo Guitar)* (Hittite)
- Dave Douglas - *Marching Music* (Greenleaf Music)
- Ella Fitzgerald - *The Lost Berlin Tapes* (Verve)
- Kirk Knuffke - *Tight Like This* (SteepleChase)
- James Brandon Lewis Quartet - *Molecular* (Intakt)
- Miklós Lukács Cimbiosis Trio - *Music From the Solitude of Timeless Minutes* (BMC Records)
- Baldo Martínez/Juan Saiz/Lucía Martínez - *Frágil Gigante* (Leo)
- Thelonious Monk - *Palo Alto* (Impulse!)
- Wassim Mukdad/David Rothenberg/Volker Lankow - *In The Wake of Memories* (Clermont Music)
- Angelica Sanchez/Marilyn Crispell - *How To Turn The Moon* (Pyroclastic)

Laurence Donohue-Greene, Managing Editor

- duotrio - *In the Bright and Deep* (Blujazz)
- Nels Cline Singers - *Share the Wealth* (Blue Note)
- Dave Douglas - *Marching Music* (Greenleaf Music)
- Kirk Knuffke - *Tight Like This* (SteepleChase)
- Travis Laplante & Yarn/Wire - *Inner Garden* (New Amsterdam)
- Steph Richards - *Supersense* (Northern Spy)
- Sylvain Rifflet, Jon Irabagon, Sébastien Boisseau, Jim Black-*Rebellion* (BMC Records)
- Terje Rypdal - *Conspiracy* (ECM)
- Sabu Toyozumi, Simon Tan, Yong Yandsen, Rick Countryman - *ReAbstraction* (FMR)
- WHO Trio - *Strell: The Music of Billy Strayhorn & Duke Ellington* (Clean Feed)

Andrey Henkin, Editorial Director