

## **HORACE PARLAN – RELAXIN' WITH HORACE**

What makes good music? Naturally good musicians are required. Give them space to breathe, an environment where their creativity is set free, where they can be themselves. Once this is dealt with, the conditions are there; the path is paved.

RELAXIN' WITH HORACE is one of those albums that is as relaxed and laid-back as only great musicians can make them. Experience, concentration and the obvious mutual respect between the players, accompany the music on its way out of the speakers.

It was drummer Ed Thigpen's idea. Bassist Jesper Lundgaard needed no persuasion. And Horace Parlan, legendary American pianist and Danish resident for ages, was very pleased when it was suggested that he record an album in his own living room. In this relaxed setting, the trio was able to take their time recording a handful of Parlan's favorite tunes.

- I have worked with these two gentlemen for years. In my opinion Ed is high up in the hierarchy of jazz drummers. He is sensitive, he always listens, and he is interesting. Jesper has an intuitive harmonic sense. He is a true dream for a pianist. It was a particular pleasure to record with them in my home.

Horace Parlan is in his life's autumn. He uses a cane and glasses. His right hand is still marked from the polio of his childhood, a fact that has contributed to the special piano style and luxuriant harmonic approach from which so many jazz greats have profited: Charles Mingus, Roland Kirk, Booker Ervin, Archie Shepp, Dexter Gordon.... However fragile flesh may be, his mind and spirit are still very much alive. Today, Parlan plays with more ease than ever, and his music expresses genuine emotion. As Ed Thigpen says, - Horace is one of those few individualists whose playing is immediately recognizable, his soft but deep groove...

Horace Parlan, Ed Thigpen and Jesper Lundgaard have created an unpretentious album, free of trendy labels and fancy frills. Plain trio art of the old school that cuts to the bone and warms the heart. Relax with Horace, Jesper and Ed. Sit back and enjoy the sound of jazz. Real jazz.

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**STUCD 04102, STUNT RECORDS**