

Richard Boone

- A tribute to love -

At long last: An album with Richard Boone singing ballads - romantic and moving.

It has taken the 68-year-old expatriate American many years to get to this point. Since 1970 he has had Denmark as his home base after a rather disordered career. He was a trombone player (and once in a while singer) with Count Basie for exactly three years, beginning in July 1966. In Denmark Richard Boone was a highly esteemed member of the Danish Radio Big Band, and at the same time he had his own bands with e.g. Bent Jædig. He was, of course, a member of Thad Jones' Eclipse and Ernie Wilkins' Almost Big Band, but he also played with other Americans living in Denmark, such as Dexter Gordon and Etta Cameron.

His natural modesty has made him realize that it takes a lot of experience to sing ballads. Now he has the courage to draw on his life when he uses well-chosen and durable standards to sing, with spirit and feeling, his tribute to love and all its aspects. The music is romantic and touching in the best sense of the words, and Richard Boone is surrounded by outstanding musicians who understand the singer's intentions and the intimate character of the music: Pianist Carsten Dahl, bassist Niels Præstholt, who has also produced the cd, and Jonas Johansen and Ed Thigpen, who take turns at the drums.

In addition we are treated to tenor saxophonists Bob Rockwell (on three tunes) and Bent Jædig (on one tune), and to violinist Finn Ziegler and singer Katrine Madsen on the charming version of "There'll Never Be Another You".

For far too long we have taken Richard Boone for granted - he had just become one of our own. But this recording ought finally to make everybody realize where Richard Boone has actually been a long time already: among the best jazz singers around. It would be no surprise if Americans suddenly rediscovered one of their "lost and forgotten sons". So - be ready for the Boone Experience!

Another cd has been planned as a showcase for the more extrovert side of Richard Boone's talents as a singer. But "A Tribute to Love" mainly shows Boone as a balladeer (with a beat!). It's one of those rare albums where you feel as a listener that the singer is singing to you and you alone. It's subdued vocal jazz with all the right qualities, where the warmth, intimacy and melancholy atmosphere are there all the time. It's not cool and studied.

Vocal jazz is in vogue at the moment - also among pop and rock singers. Without any strained attempts to be trendy, "A Tribute to Love" may turn out to be just that. For here is a real gift from a man who has lived a long life in jazz and generously shares it with us.

SHE'S FUNNY THAT WAY / I'LL BE SEING YOU / WITHOUT A SONG / SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW / LADY BE GOOD / DINDI / WHEN I FALL IN LOVE / EMBRACEABLE YOU / WAY DOWN YOUNDER IN NEW ORLEANS / THERE'LL NEVER BE ANOTHER YOU / JUST IN TIME

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