

KATRINE MADSEN – CLOSE TO YOU

The title of vocalist Katrine Madsen's new CD is a precise and mild expression of what the listener will encounter once the disc is spinning in the player and the sound materializes in the room.

This music affects the listener and his surroundings. It generates a warm, intimate atmosphere, full scents and darkly tinted hues. The sound of relaxed jazz. The dark timbre of Katrine Madsen's crisp alto, and the presence of a vocalist at one with herself. You will find nothing forced, no dramatic exaggerations. Only an earnest musical voice in an exceptionally luxuriant musical setting.

CLOSE TO YOU is Katrine Madsen's sixth release. From the very start of her career, she has revealed a well-developed sense of style and an inherent ability to capture the musical space and lead the listener into her vocal stories. Often in intimate love ballads and pensive songs, where we find some of the key words in life.

CLOSE TO YOU also presents songs of this persuasion – more mature and perfect than ever. Interpretations of classic ballads like Burt Bacharach's 'The Look Of Love', Lennon/McCartney's 'And I Love Her', Ellington's 'In A Sentimental Mood' and Noble's 'The Very Thought Of You' – to mention but a few of the album's eleven tracks. Three are written by Madsen herself.

The band accompanying her consists of the crème de la crème of Danish/Swedish jazz topped with one of Europe's greatest piano talents. The Danish-Italian piano trio of Jesper Bodilsen (bass), Morten Lund (drums) and the incredible Stefano Bollani (piano) makes up the basis of her backing. 2002 Jazzpar award winner Enrico Rava brought them together the first time for the award concerts at which he presented Bollani's exuberant musical talents to a flabbergasted Danish audience. The chemistry in the rhythm section was so outstanding, that they felt compelled to continue their collaboration - documented on the outstanding trio release MI RITORNI IN MENTE (Stunt 2003), and now in their wonderful accompaniment to Katrine Madsen. The music is lifted to even greater heights by Hans Ulrik's beautiful solos on saxophone, flute and harmonica and Swedish Mårten Lundgren's contributions on trumpet.

CLOSE TO YOU is a tasteful and integrated collection of songs interpreted with great respect, intimacy and mutual understanding between the musicians. Sometimes music expresses more than words. It gets under our skin, casts a spell on us. Opens the mind's door to moods and emotions that we all have in common. As Katrine Madsen sings,

"The look of love is saying so much more than words could ever say"

KATRINE MADSEN – CLOSE TO YOU STUCD 04132, STUNT RECORDS

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