

## **MARILYN MAZUR: "ALL THE BIRDS – REFLECTING + ADVENTUROUS"**

During the 2000 JAZZPAR Prize concert with Chris Potter the five nominees for the 2001 prize were announced. The prize would be awarded for the 12th time, and one of the nominees was Marilyn Mazur. She had been nominated before, but this time she was also the winner. And the first Danish one ever! The organisers of the event soon decided that Mazur should have an entire concert to herself. She is so versatile a musician that it would be a shame to only let her play one hour-long set. And that's why, of a total of 30 JAZZPAR recordings, the one from 2001 is the first one released as a double cd.

Marilyn Mazur had not actually planned it, but it turned out that there was a natural theme for both the music and the musicians: Birds. Birds have several aspects; they represent freedom, joy and pain. Almost all the music is written by Mazur, and her sources of inspiration are manifold. From African balophones to church plays. From dirty electronics to pure voices. From minimalist anthills to volcanic energy.

To Marilyn Mazur, music is something that's simply there. In favourable moments she is a medium who receives the music, and she helps shape it to fit it into her own fantasies and energies, as she describes it. Mazur often tries to combine feelings in a way that's only possible in music. Where pain and sorrow turn into something that's pleasant and stimulating to listen to.

There's also humour. *Den Bestøvlede Fugl (Bird in Boots)*, for example, is a cheerful tune with energy and happiness in a funny and unusual time. It's easy to imagine the bird trying to fly and almost succeeding. But it's weighed down by its boots in the shape of a slightly lumpy rhythm and body.

The music is great and life-affirming. The listener is led into a marvellous labyrinth, and when he returns he's full of new energy and inspiration.

The 2001 JAZZPAR concerts were received with great enthusiasm by the audience and music critics, and each one of the concerts could easily have been issued on cd without any editing. But Marilyn Mazur is very meticulous about her music and about where and how it's presented. A concert is one thing - a cd is another. And there's constant development. Thus "All The Birds - Reflecting + Adventurous" is not merely documentation of the 2001 JAZZPAR concerts. The double cd is a new product, "re-created" and carefully made, with recordings from several of the JAZZPAR concerts combined with studio recordings.

The result is impressive and speaks for itself.

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