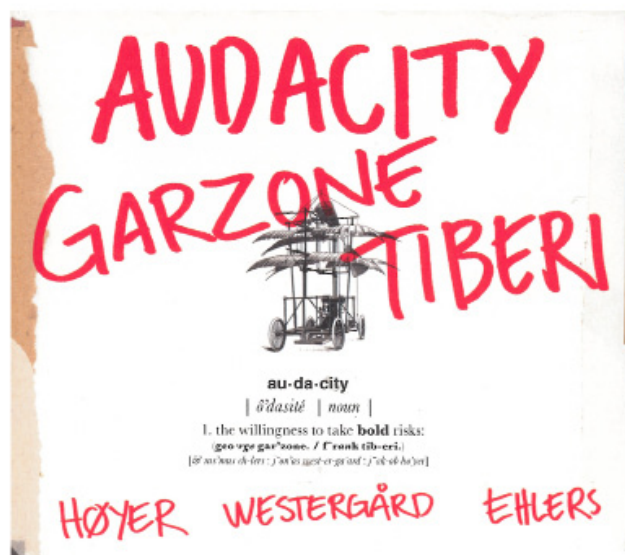


George Garzone / Frank Tiberi
w. Rasmus Ehlers Trio
AUDACITY



Stunt Records
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For some years now, Danish pianist Rasmus Ehlers has brought the American tenor saxophonist George Garzone to Denmark for the Copenhagen Jazz Festival. With Ehlers at the piano, Jonas Westergaard on bass and Jakob Høyer on drums, enthusiastic audiences and reviewers alike have witnessed this quartet's often quite extended "workouts" over what may be termed a combination of standards and Coltrane-related material. Garzone's vital and highly original playing has always been inspirational for fellow saxophonists, but also for the ever-growing and loyal following who show up year after year at their sweaty, spellbinding concerts. In our part of the world, Garzone (b.1950) was one of the overlooked giants of jazz until the first of his now annual visits, 11 years ago.

"I come out of an Italian saxophone-playing family. They all played in a romantic, melodic style, and when my uncle Rocco died, I inherited his horn. I have been a teacher in Boston and New York for 20 years, but I tour when it fits in. The main part of my income comes from teaching, and some of the most remarkable of the young instrumentalists have been students of mine: Mark Turner, Seamus Blake, Donny McCaslin, Joshua Redman – but playing has always been the most important thing for me..."

When Garzone arrived for the 2011 Copenhagen Jazz Festival, he brought a surprise with him: tenor and soprano saxophonist Frank Tiberi. Shamefully underestimated, he is a musician's musician and a mentor for many saxophonists with larger reputations among the broader public. After working with Benny Goodman among others, he joined Woody Herman's band in the late 1960's, and when Herman died in 1987, Tiberi took charge of the band. Garzone explains that he met Frank Tiberi through Joe Lovano, who played in Herman's band in the late '70's.

"Frank moved close to my place in Boston. He was always a great inspiration and teacher for Joe Lovano and myself, and I tried to get to play with him as much as possible. Working with and learning from a musician of his stature has been invaluable for me. I've been very lucky to have Frank as a friend and inspiration."

Frank Tiberi (b.1928) began playing classical clarinet when a child – "but Benny Goodman got in the way when I was ten", says Frank. "It was a revelation to discover that a clarinet could be played like that. Then I got a tenor, and when my father died when I was 13, I supported the family by playing. Hawkins, Lester Young and Charlie Parker were great sources of inspiration. I also liked Al Cohn, he was so melodic and soulful. When Woody died in 1987, I took over the band. It's been a good life, I played, and that's what I wanted to do... I

was very enthusiastic when Coltrane put out GIANT STEPS. I listened to him a lot in a club in Philadelphia called The Showboat. It was different each time. It was incredibly intense, and developing and full of vitality. He played all the time – you would never see him at the bar. So listening to him, I developed my own style."

In spite of his age, Frank Tiberi is still extremely vital, and many consider him the big surprise of the 2011 jazz festival. He hasn't recorded very much in his own name, and is rarely heard soloing on record, and so Stunt Records took advantage the historic possibility of recording these two sax greats in Sun Studio.

Audacity is the fourth Stunt release with George Garzone. HEY WHY DON'T WE PLAY from 2001 features a line-up including Ben Besiakov on piano and Billy Hart on drums; ONE TWO THREE FOUR with Chris Crocco, Dennis Erwin and Pete Zimmer is from 2007; and AMONG FRIENDS from 2009 is with Steve Kuhn, Anders Christensen and Paul Motian.

Three of the selections on AUDACITY are standards: "Softly As In A Morning Sunrise" in a catchy Frank Tiberi arrangement, the Miles Davis classic "Solar", and "Theme For Ernie" where Tiberi stretches out. Garzone contributes "Strollin'" and Tiberi brought "My Man" to the session. The remaining four tunes were composed by Rasmus Ehlers especially for this session with Garzone and Tiberi in mind.

Rasmus Ehlers (b 1971) is an autodidactic pianist. The first time he met Garzone was at a jazz clinic in 1999. "He was a fantastic instructor and he jammed a lot and made an indelible impression. My trio has recorded two albums with him (BROOKLYN DAYS from 2002 and AS PLAYED BY EAR from 2010), and it has been a great pleasure bringing him back to Denmark year after year. I'm surprised how easy it is to book jobs for the trio with Garzone. The wilder we play, the more enthusiastic the audience is... George is amazingly powerful, and he is hot from the first line. Sometimes he says, 'Hey, let's take it a little easy', but by the time we've played the first couple of choruses, he's already smoking. He has so much music in him that wants out, but at the same time he's a team player. It was great that he got Frank to come over, and the recording went perfectly. Their relationship is almost like father and son. It's almost as if Frank plays in way that George wants to memorize, and their mutual pleasure and inspiration flows back and forth. It comes out of the album, and it can be heard in Jonas' and Jakob's playing – and certainly in my own. These two legends brought the best out in us. It was a great day recording. We're proud."

Two Brothers / W.S. / Softly / Theme for Ernie / Solar / My Man / Audacity / Limbo / 9 Strollin'.

**George Garzone (ts), Frank Tiberi (ts, ss), Rasmus Ehlers (p),
Jonas Westergaard (b), Jakob Høyer (d).**

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