



## ANDERS BERGCRANTZ / ABOUT TIME

( Stunt Records, STUCD 07122 )

46-year old Swedish trumpeter Anders Bergcrantz has often appeared as sideman during a 25-year long career. However, releases in his own name are somewhat scarce: Two LP's from the mid-80s and four CD's with his American group. Not much for a musician considered one of the great trumpeters in jazz today. His brassy tone and virile musicianship is not only in demand all over Sweden and Denmark, but far beyond Scandinavia as well.

It certainly is ABOUT TIME! On this recording for Stunt Records we are once again reminded of his full, precise sound, his willpower and uncanny sense of timing, his logical feel for building a solo – it is pure enjoyment. This is jazz, genuine jazz with no frills. If we were to compare him with likeminded musicians (which in this case is possible without exaggeration) it would be people like Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw. They are technical and precise musicians with a unique attack and at times an aggressive edge to their playing. They are also ideals which are unreachable to most musicians.

Bergcrantz attended Berklee in 1980-81, and upon returning to Sweden, he spent the following three years at Malmoe's Conservatory. However, he soon began receiving frequent offers from more seasoned players, i.e. Dave Liebman. Before long he was also touring most of Europe with his "American" quintet which included tenor saxophonist Rick Margitza, pianist Richie Beirach and drummer Adam Nussbaum. And there is also his group with tenor-player Billy Harper and drummer Billy Hart, unfortunately as yet unrecorded.

In Denmark he is often heard as a member of pianist Jan Kaspersen's group and as part of drum legend Ed Thigpen's Scantet – always playing alongside a tenor sax. For his own group he has chosen all brass with trombonist Vincent Nilsson. This recording provides Nilsson with ample opportunity to show off his soloing qualities, his total control of his difficult instrument, and his wealth of ideas. Drummer Lennart Gruvstedt's deep swing and presence are a great asset to the group - he and pianist Jacob Karlzon and bassist Lasse Lundström constitute a formidable trio in its own right.

But first and foremost, ABOUT TIME is about a tight, super-energetic quintet featuring a lot of great soloing – not least from the masterful trumpeter and bandleader himself.

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