

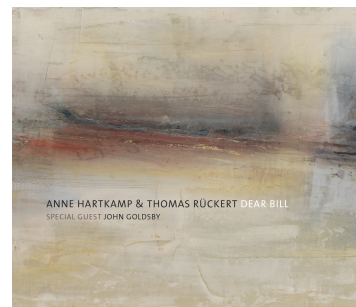
DEAR BILL

JAZZsick
RECORDS

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artist: Anne Hartkamp & Thomas Rückert
(special guest: John Goldsby)
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DEAR BILL

Anne Hartkamp - vocals
Thomas Rückert - piano
special guest: John Goldsby - bass on 3, 6, 7, 8

- 01 My Foolish Heart (Victor Young, Ned Washington) 5:28
- 02 Letter To Evan (Bill Evans) 6:59
- 03 How Deep Is The Ocean (Irving Berlin) 4:57
- 04 Quiet Now (Denny Zeitlin, Suzy Stern) 4:56
- 05 Theme From M*A*S*H (Johnny Mandel) 2:23
- 06 Dear Bill (Thomas Rückert, Anne Hartkamp) 3:06
- 07 Never Let Me Go (Jay Livingston, Raymond B. Evans) 7:13
- 08 How My Heart Sings (Earl Zindars, Anne Zindars) 4:52
- 09 Turn Out The Stars (Bill Evans, Gene Lees) 7:02
- 10 Translucent Yellow (Thomas Rückert, Anne Hartkamp) 3:00
- 11 Very Early (Bill Evans, Carol Hall) 4:24
- 12 You Must Believe In Spring (Michel Legrand, Alan & Marilyn Bergman) 5:53

Total time: 1:00:04

Recorded and mixed by Christian Heck at LOFT, Cologne and Tonart Studio Kerpen
Mastered by Brigitte Angerhausen

Produced by Philipp van Endert, Anne Hartkamp and Thomas Rückert, 2015

Cover design by Michael Potrafke www.a1-grafik.de

Painting by Vera Moss www.veramoss.de; The painting was photographed by www.dorinamilas.de

Photograph of Anne Hartkamp & Thomas Rückert by Christian Apwisch

Visit us at www.thomasrueckert.com and www.annehartkamp.de

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DEAR BILL

What's so beautiful: when musicians meet to „just play a bit“, without any pressure of production or being productive, for sheer joy of making music.

Just that happened in the summer of 2013 when Anne Hartkamp and Thomas Rückert who have been collaborating for years in Hartkamp's Quintet/Quartet took a relaxed and very open-minded look at the musical legacy of the great pianist Bill Evans, a musician who influenced and affected both of them in a multitude of ways.

This untargeted jam session in Rückert's sunny home studio asked for more, and so what followed were further musical encounters, were concerts - the first of which brought them the marvelous John Goldsby on bass as a special guest -, and finally the recordings to this album: DEAR BILL.

The album features compositions by Evans himself, but also other pieces from Evans' repertoire and his sonic cosmos, as well as two originals, composed by Rückert and with lyrics written by Hartkamp.

The two musicians are not interested in delivering a superficial copy of their hero's musical means; on the contrary, it's all about the inside of Bill Evans' music, about its depth, lightness and soul, about introspection and intuition.

Accordingly, the singer and the pianist - both of them experienced and distinguished musicians as well as indubitable virtuosos in their respective fields - have refrained from anything ostensibly spectacular in order to give room to the silence in and behind music, in order to step aside and let music itself shine through, an intention which fits seamlessly with their *special guest* John Goldsby's sublime, comprehensive musicality and delightful bass tone.

The duo and their guest have accomplished a lucent, subtle album, marked by mutual attention and unflustered animation, letting music lead the way and finding unexpected turns and dialogues.

Jazz, time and again, is about the unpredictable, about risk. On DEAR BILL, this sense of adventure lies not in breakneck tempos or tricky meters - here, it's the adventure of soulfulness, of undisguised expression, of listening. And to those who allow themselves to be invited and drawn in, whole worlds of emotion and depth are opened.

DEAR BILL is being published on vinyl (LP) as well as on CD.

DEAR BILL

The songs:

01 My Foolish Heart

Enchanted, in a space of its own. A new perspective on the old song, an expedition to its core. Melody and accompaniment interlock, independent from and yet connected to each other.

02 Letter To Evan

Written by Bill Evans for his son Evan on the occasion of his fourth birthday, an affectionate letter, reflective and heartening. Luxuriously swinging and with a relaxed air, a polyphonic lyrical texture of chords.

03 How Deep Is The Ocean *featuring John Goldsby, bass*

Unpretentious. Authentic. Lithe.

04 Quiet Now

Space. A piano solo like a vast waveless ocean. Gentle, warm, profound.

05 Theme from M*A*S*H

Delicate counterpoint like a multitude of dots in space, voice and piano intertwined, dancing around each other, percussive. Playful, unleashed.

06 Dear Bill *featuring John Goldsby, bass*

A homage to Evans, its harmony fathoming profundity, the lyrics a tribute in words. Shimmering, soft.

DEAR BILL

quiet in a noisy world
listening to the song unfurl
speaking, never screaming
bringing forth
serenely gleaming beauty
music
to feed the soul

07 Never Let Me Go *featuring John Goldsby, bass*

Emotional, direct, unarmored - the essence of longing, of vulnerability and surrender.

08 How My Heart Sings *featuring John Goldsby, bass*

With an improvisational dialogue between bass and vocals. Lighthearted, fresh, radiant, vernal.

09 Turn Out The Stars

Tragedy and beauty, heartbreakingly close to each other. Dense and associative. A flight through universe.

DEAR BILL

10 Translucent Yellow,
Light: transparent and diaphanous, floating and rooted at once.

TRANSLUCENT YELLOW

when that moment comes
all still and silent
utterly amazed,
you're finally letting go

maybe
it's a bit like falling
maybe more like
being gently set down on the ground

how long
since you took a proper breath
seems like forever there've been
mountains and battlefields

but now they've all disappeared
and as you look around
there's only
light

11 Very Early
Intricately polyphonic, yet flowing, joyful, buoyant.

12 You Must Believe In Spring
Tenderness. Heart. Devotion.

The musicians:

Anne Hartkamp has worked with, among others, Gunter Hampel, Jerry van Rooyen/WDR Bigband, Perry Robinson, Marion Brown, Angelika Niescier, Manfred Schoof.
Further information: www.anehartkamp.de

Thomas Rückert has played with (e.g.) Lee Konitz, Randy Brecker, Mark Murphy, Mark Johnson, John Goldsby, Kevin Mahogany and, last but not least, the WDR Big Band.
Find out more at: www.thomasrueckert.com

John Goldsby has worked with Albert Dailey, Sal Nistico, John Hicks, Benny Bailey, Bob Wilber, George Benson, Dave Liebman, Wynton Marsalis, Charlie Byrd, Larry Coryell, Lionel Hampton, Benny Goodman and many others; since 1994, he is the solo bassist of the WDR Big Band.
Please visit: www.john.goldsby.de