



Carl Petter Opsahl *Listener's Blues*

Caledonia Jazz Records (CJR 01)

Songs

- 1) **Listener's Blues** (Carl Petter Opsahl)
- 2) **Some of These Days** (Shelton Brooks)
- 3) **I Surrender, Dear** (Harry Barris)
- 4) **(Now and Then There's) A Fool Such As I** (Bill Trader)
- 5) **On The Sunny Side of the Street** (Jimmy McHugh/Dorothy Fields)
- 6) **Freedom Calypso** (Carl Petter Opsahl)
- 7) **Eventide (Abide With Me)** (William Henry Monk)
- 8) **Please Don't Talk About Me** (Sam H. Stept/Sidney Clare)
- 9) **Blood and Tears/Velt alle Dine Veie** (Hans Leo Hassler/Paul Gerhardt/Magnus Brostrup Landstad)
- 10) **Just A Closer Walk With Thee** (African American Spiritual)

Musicians

Carl Petter Opsahl, clarinets & Håkon Gjesvik, piano

With Birgitte Soojin, vocal (4, 5, 9 & 10)

Ida Hvid, bass (4, 5, 9 & 10)

Jacob Munck Mortensen, trombone & tuba (4, 5 & 10)

Recorded at Tøyenkirken, Oslo

Mixed and mastered at Musikkloftet AS, Oslo

Sound engineer: Vidar Lunden

Produced by Carl Petter Opsahl & Vidar Lunden

Portrait photo by Ann Iren Ødeby.

Artwork by Morgan Nicolaysen

Thanks to

... all the musicians –Håkon Gjesvik, Birgitte Soojin, Ida Hvid and Jacob Munck Mortensen – for their creative input and generosity; Sigmund Ruud and the staff at Bymisjonsenteret Tøyenkirken for being such an inspiration and for the use of the church; Vidar Lunden for great sound and dedicated listening; Conni Ess for proof reading; and Eric Leclerc for taking such good care of my clarinets. The performance of “Just A Closer Walk” is dedicated to the wonderful bass player Hugo Rasmussen (RIP) who passed away just before the recording.

Liner notes

I remember the first time I heard the voice of God.

I couldn't have been more than five or six years old, and was listening to Louis Armstrong singing “On the Sunny Side of the Street.” A voice so dark, rough, steeped in so much blues and pain, and yet so full of light and hope – I intuitively knew that God's voice must sound just like that.

To me, “Listener's Blues” signifies a spirituality of listening. Listening to the voice of God, wherever it might be heard, listening to the voice of the earth and universe, to the voices of human beings, to songs of suffering and pain, joy and happiness.

On this album, I play songs that have been with me for most of my life, songs rooted in New Orleans tradition. These songs have sustained me with joy, hope and spiritual nourishment. I have heard them played by some of my favorite New Orleans musicians, like Armstrong, Edmond Hall, Willie Humphrey and a host of others. I have also played them at concerts and clubs, weddings, dances and funerals.

Even the two originals have been with me for a long time. “Freedom Calypso” is my first composition, dedicated to Nelson Mandela when he was still imprisoned on Robben Island.

I am blessed to work with some of the best musicians I could imagine. Pianist Håkon Gjesvik and I have played together for more than 35 years. Few outside of New Orleans know the tradition the way he does. Birgitte Soojin happens to be among my favorite singers. She brought with her two great musicians from Copenhagen, Denmark: Ida Hvid on bass and Jacob Munck Mortensen on tuba and trombone. My deepest gratitude for their great ears and creative input.

To the Living God, the Creator, liberator and giver of life. This album is dedicated to refugees and homeless people around the world.

Peace