



CMC Ensemble *Contra Puncta*

There are alchemies that only music can create. Alchemy, coincidences, maybe even magic. Take this record, which has its own genesis. A group of students from the Cosenza Conservatory "Stanislao Giacomantonio", led by Master Nicola Pisani, participated in the national competition "Music Live - Youth for Young People" in 2015, organized every year by Ismez among Italian conservatories. There is a small detail that seems fictional but is actually real: the guys did not know that the entire path that awaited them was within a competition. They only found out as they continued.

After a tour of concerts around Italy, the ensemble found itself at the Music Park in Rome together with groups of other conservatories. The guest of honor was a champion of Michel Godard's caliber. When in Rome, after a splendid show, they were declared winners of the Ismez contest, and could not believe it. But that's not all. They entered the competition just for the pleasure of playing together, making music for the joy of making music and nothing else.

After a concert in Cologne – which was part of the prize - it came to our attention that we had achieved our objective: collecting the fruits of our labour and not squandering all that has been built during months of trials and concerts. A studio was set up on a farm in Puglia, under Castel del Monte, which became the "Flower Art Factory". The studio allowed for a full, organic recording along with special

guest Michel Godard as well as Marco Sannini, who had replaced Godard on some dates. The result is the record you are listening to, which has received the acclaim and interest of the Norwegian label Losen. Ten tracks crossing different emotions, in the spirit of eclecticism that spans between Jazz and Mediterranean sounds. A great expressive freedom, though within robust structures - thanks to a firm hand in composition.

In addition to Nicola Pisani, Michel Godard, and Marco Sannini, the compositions also involved three students: Carlo Cimino (double bass), Giuseppe Santelli (piano) and Giacinto Maiorca (drums), who perform three long, hypnotic suites.

So, as it is in the delivery of the best jazz, so many languages are happily living in the same koinè. There is a Mediterranean background in these grooves; the restlessness of the blues, bop citations, echoes of a marching band, and disguised tangos. Full orchestral moments that with great wisdom drains into a duo or trio; improvised and free form jazz moments, alternating with ballad and dixieland apertures; the imaginative and evocative charm of movie soundtracks that blends into soothing popular lullabies.

Gianluca Veltri 2017

Michel Godard (born 1960) soon established himself as a tuba player of extraordinary versatility. His career spans between jazz, improvised music and classical music. In 1988, he took part in the activities of the Orchestra Philharmonique de Radio-France, the Orchester National de France, the Ensemble Musique Vivante, the Ensemble Jacques Moderne and the Ensemble Baroque La Venice.

In addition, recently, he is a member of the wind quartet Arban Chamber Brass, (tour in Japan, United States, Africa).

In the meantime, he carries out numerous workshops and seminars in France and abroad. In the jazz field, he was part of the Orchester National de Jazz from 1989 to 1991 under the direction of Claude Barthélémy. He participated in numerous constellations with Michel Portal, Louis Sclavis, Henri Texier, Antoine Hervé, Kenny Wheeler, Rabih Abou Khalil, Wolfgang Puschnig, Pierre Favre. In short: The no 1 tuba player in Europe

Nicola Pisani (born 1962) is a very busy Italian. For the past 13 years he has been responsible for the jazz department at the "S. Giacomantonio" of Cosenza where he is some sort of a black sheep it says, however among the most productive one of the institute.

He plays the saxophone and writes a lot of music for smaller and bigger bands and orchestras that he himself directs. He is touring all over Europe, America, Asia and Africa and among musicians he has played with can be mentioned Steve Lacy, John Surman, Sergey Kuryokhin and many others.

He can also be heard on the excellent release on Losen Records with Dino Massa Quartet 2017 (LOS 179-2)