



CONCERTOS

ECM 2054

Soloists

Michael Mantler (trumpet)
Bjarne Roupé (guitar)
Bob Rockwell (tenor saxophone)
Pedro Carneiro (marimba, vibraphone)
Roswell Rudd (trombone)
Majella Stockhausen (piano)
Nick Mason (percussion)

with the Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin, conducted by Roland Kluttig

recorded November 2007 - February 2008, Berlin, New York, Pernes-les-Fontaines

TITLES

Trumpet / Guitar / Saxophone / MarimbaVibe / Trombone / Piano / Percussion

THE ORCHESTRA

Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin

Rebecca Lenton (flute)
Antje Thierbach (oboe)
Winfried Rager (clarinet, bass clarinet)
Theo Nabicht (bass clarinet)
Naama Golan (trumpet)
Daniel Ploeger (trombone)
Robin Hayward (tuba)
Ekkehard Wind rich (violin)
Daniella Strasfogel (violin)
Kirstin Maria Pientka (viola)
Ringela Riemke (cello)
Arnulf Ballhorn (double bass)

plus guests -

Bjarne Roupé (guitar)
Majella Stockhausen (piano)
Pedro Carneiro (marimba, vibraphone)

ABOUT CONCERTOS

Not intended as solo concertos in a strict, classical sense, these compositions, even though perhaps technically difficult, were not conceived as primarily virtuosic gymnastics, and therefore do not ask the near-impossible from the soloists just for the sake of demonstrating technical prowess. I prefer to simply think of them as pieces of music, some completely notated, some involving improvisation, that happen to feature the unique sound of a particular instrument combined with the individuality of the soloists.

In a way, some forty years later, these concertos represent a return to as well as a re-thinking of the original concept of my work with the Jazz Composer's Orchestra, the soloists now from contemporary new music (non-improvising) as well as from new jazz and rock (improvising/freely interpreting), supported by a classical, though musically flexible, chamber ensemble.

- Michael Mantler

PRESS

Want to explore Mantler, but not sure where to start? You could try [here](#).

A famously reticent performer, Michael Mantler is also a musician easy to underestimate, yet the sheer unpredictability of his output (want to hear Jack Bruce and Robert Wyatt singing Beckett? Then Mantler's your man) is there for the discovering, while the quality of his collaborations will be evident from those featured on this disc. 'Concertos' consists of seven movements - lasting between five and 12 minutes - that between them offer a conspectus of the idiom, distinctive yet elusive in its subtle melding of modal and chromatic harmony, which he has been evolving over the past quarter-century.

As presented, the sequence gets underway with Mantler's elegant yet often elegiac soloing in *Trumpet*, proceeding to the invigorating gestures of Bjarne Roupé in *Guitar* and Bob Rockwell's typically bracing dexterity in *Saxophone*, then to the endlessly resourceful mallet-work of Pedro Carneiro in *MarimbaVibe* and Roswell Rudd's soulful yet deadpan playing in *Trombone*; taking in the alternately cascading and terse figuration of Majella Stockhausen in *Piano*, before ending with Nick Mason's understated kit-work in *Percussion*. Such a lineup of individual and intensive showcases could so easily have cancelled itself out over the hour-long recital, thus it is a tribute to the contribution of Roland Kluttig's Neue Musik Berlin that there is never a lack of expressive context. Detailed yet wide-ranging sound and stylish booklet presentation as expected from ECM, and a disc that can be cordially recommended to all those who, drawn to the diversity of Mantler's catalogue, were unsure where to start.

- GRAMOPHONE
