



Jeff Cascaro - *Pure (the live recording)*

Label: Herzog Records

Distributor: Soulfood / Believe

EAN: 4 260109 010874

Release: February 14th 2020

www.jeffcascaro.com

Info and Presspics:

<http://www.herzogpromotion.com>

Line-Up: Jeff Cascaro (voc, tp), Roberto Di Gioia (p), Paul Höchstädter (dr), Christian von Kaphengst (b)

Jeff Cascaro – Pure (the live recording)

Jeff Cascaro has created impressive sound aesthetics with his past studio albums. The records *Soul of a Singer* (2006), *Mother and Brother* (2008), *The Other Man* (2012) and *Love and Blues in the City* (2017) are timeless documents of soul jazz.

So it was not surprising that the approach to a live album would take time. After long and often controversial discussions, the artist, who lives in Bochum, was able to make friends with the idea. A recording was planned for 2020 - and then suddenly everything came completely different.

On April 26th 2019 the in-house recording of the Jazzschmiede Düsseldorf went unnoticed. None of the musicians had realized it. When Christian von Kaphengst, the producer and bassist, curiously listened to the recording, the first hurdle was cleared. Von Kaphengst encouraged the others to listen. Label boss Rüdiger Herzog was immediately on fire, too. Timid and hesitant, Jeff Cascaro also approached the recordings, but then the enthusiasm was great. This to such an extent that now almost the complete concert is released, with the lavish playing time of 76 minutes.

In the phase of preparation for the final mixes in the studio, sound engineer Arne Schumann gave a nice sentence: "Live recordings must always have this fine balance between spontaneity and a sound presence that is possibly slightly limited. Indeed, you can feel that the musicians play primarily for the audience and don't think of a recording. So the music lives in the moment, has punch, breathes

space and - unlike the studio recordings - is controlled much more loosely from the moment. So the result is more free-spirited and surprising. The musicians make more use of their situational intuition and their musical background. Out of this mental freedom other playful risks are taken, which make this recording fundamentally different from the studio albums. The music is immensely lively, carries far more improvisational part and the energetic flow is heating to boiling. So it was Jeff Cascaro himself who determined the title of the album: "Pure. That must be the album title. That says it all short and sweet. It includes the pure in the music, but also the substance."

The recorded concert evening in the crowded Jazzschmiede Düsseldorf was brilliant and you have to thank Lars Wallat from the club team for his live recording, because he puts Jeff Cascaro adequately in scene. The listeners thank him with spontaneous applause and drive the musicians to unexpected heights. There is always a wonderful tension and curiosity in the air.

The band was well-rehearsed due to two preceding concerts and at the same time very awake in their interaction. Especially Paul Höchstädter, drummer of the hr Big-Band, who joined the quartet later, plays wonderfully light and airy. He surprises his fellow musicians and keeps the sound extremely flexible for the band consisting of Christian von Kaphengst and Roberto Di Gioia. He gives the same beat and direction. Roberto Di Gioia shows his relaxed virtuosic playing and also dares to venture away from the song material from time to time, but remains the alerted "call and response" partner for Jeff Cascaro. The sonorous bass of Christian von Kaphengst knows how to ground the quartet. The musical evening includes fine tuned tracks like A Taste of Honey, Ain't no Love in the Heart of the City, Inner City Blues, but also draws on old Cascaro classics like Beale Street or Roots. If you want to understand the essence of the vocals of Jeff Cascaro, probably the most important German jazz singer, just listen to the encore "This Masquerade" and the last title of the album. Here again the vocal ability explodes in all its subtlety. The sensitively controlled handling of timbres, the effortless change of registers, the play with volume and interpretative feeling makes the song shine. To perform such a famous interpretation live is only possible by trusting his fellow musicians, who, as he points out, are always friends. And if you ask yourself on second hearing who plays these incredibly melodic trumpet solos, you realize that Jeff Cascaro can still be discovered in many facets.

Jeff Cascaro is available for interviews!

For general requests please contact us.

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