VICTO cd096

QUARTET NOIR
«LUGANO»

1. LUGANO Part I . . . . 31'40"

2. LUGANO Part II . . . . 6' 06"

3. LUGANO Part III . . . . . . 12'39"

URS LEIMGRUBER : saxophones ténor et soprano

MARILYN CRISPELL : piano, percussion

JOËLLE LÉANDRE : contrebasse

FRITZ HAUSER : batterie

Enregistré « live » à la Radio Svizzera-Rete Due
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(P) Radio Svizzera-Rete Due
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Quartet Noir span a significant body of experience – individually, first of all, and then in various ensemble groupings. Urs Leimgruber and Fritz Hauser share an extended history, as a duo, and bassist makes three – Joëlle Léandre is a long-standing partner. Marilyn Crispell has worked with Leimgruber and Hauser at least since 1994. Nor is this their initial convergence as quartet: see their previous eponymous Victo release from 1999. How do these experiences combine into a single groupthink? Given what we may know about them in other contexts, risks are inevitable – remember, this is improvisation, before and after – and indeterminacy reigns. But in this case, experience provides continuity, and collaboration proves the process of tacit agreement.

All music seems to flow, of course, in the ear/mind of the listener, and this is one reason why Quartet Noir's long-form improvisations create an ambience filled with details that are new and unfamiliar, and yet may be experienced as whole, cohesive, and satisfying – unpredictable, but not unknown. It is possible to be comfortable within the environment they create, which has been influenced by past experiences (theirs, in what they have done; ours, by what we have heard) and collaborative efforts in the here-and-now, and which takes a form dependent as much upon our sense of receptive engagement as their actively creative interaction. The joy is in the ear of the beholder, then and now.

Art Lange   Chicago, July 2005