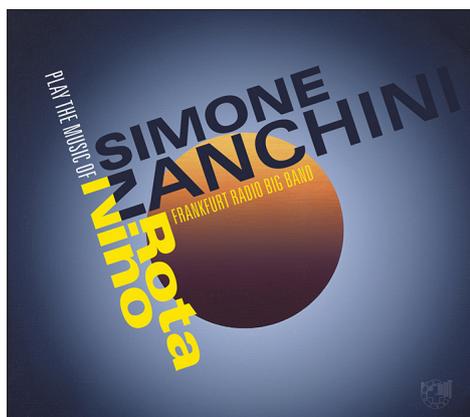




PRESS RELEASE



SIMONE ZANCHINI – FRANKFURT RADIO BIG BAND PLAY THE MUSIC OF NINO ROTA IOR CD 77129-2



1. Speak Softly, Love (10:17)
2. Parlami Di Me (7:16)
3. La Dolce Vita (9:21)
4. La Passerella Di Addio (21:28)

5. Impro For Nino (7:21)
6. A Time For Us (4:43)
7. Mia Malinconia (6:25)

Simone Zanchini – accordion
Frankfurt Radio Big Band -
conducted by David Grottschreiber

SIMONE ZANCHINI – FRANKFURT RADIO BIG BAND PLAY THE MUSIC OF NINO ROTA (IN + OUT Records)

“First the music, then the instrument!” This is what Simone Zanchini, from the Rimini area, insists on, because: “I am a musician who plays the accordion – not an accordion player who plays jazz.” Nino, the 25th album of the now 46-year-old, makes that immediately and unmistakably clear. This is where all the overwhelming diversity that Zanchini has studied, discovered and further developed in his musical experience comes together – and not only for his often vilified, but actually quite wonderful instrument. Zanchini and the musicians of the Frankfurt Radio Big Band have now paid tribute to and transformed half a dozen works by the legendary Italian film composer Nino Rota. The basis is above all the music Rota wrote for Federico Fellini for classics ranging from „La Dolce Vita“ to „8 ½ to „Amacord“, this homage to Fellini’s birthplace Rimini. The biographical backgrounds of the great filmmaker and those of the musical improvisation wizard combine beautifully here.

“Fellini had the ability to grasp the secret power of my culture and region,” Zanchini said, “in other words, the traditional elements of local folk culture. We took Nino Rota’s associated melodies as a starting point to create something new, entirely contemporary and in the jazz idiom.” Zanchini plays a handcrafted Ottavianelli instrument built according to his own design, which “no longer sounds traditional at all, but deeper, darker and

with an incredible wealth of overtones.” In Jörg Achim Keller’s arrangements for the Frankfurt Radio Big Band, conducted by David Grottschreiber, this exceptional sound combines with the impetuous improvisation power of Heinz-Dieter Sauerborn’s soprano saxophone and Steffen Weber’s tenor saxophone solo.

All of these elements create an almost ecstatic sound in La Passerella Di Addio, the more than twenty-minute core piece of the album. It is one big celebration, just like the final episode of 8½ for which Nino Rota had written this music. Zanchini’s polyphonic two-handedness, complexity and fluent changes of perspective steer the prismatically fanned sound of the big band toward a richly enhanced, almost circus-like highlight of the concert.

It might even increase the listening pleasure when you learn that the title “Speak Softly Love” was composed by Nino Rota for the movie “Fortunella”, although Francis Ford Coppola’s “Godfather” made it into a catchy tune. Or that “A Time For Us” was the musical theme for Franco Zeffirelli’s “Romeo and Juliet”. Do you have to know all the movies to enjoy this music? Absolutely not, because Zanchini’s sound cosmos extends far beyond them and endures on its own. The audience of the live recording of this concert, which can be heard here and is captured in all subtle nuances by master recording engineer Axel Gutzler, was certainly and audibly ecstatic.

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