

Adam Baruch ~ The Soundtrack Of My Life

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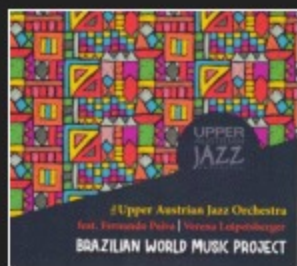
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UPPER AUSTRIAN JAZZ ORCHESTRA ~ BRAZILIAN WORLD MUSIC PROJECT

ATS 0967 (Barcode: 9005216009671) ~ AUSTRIA ~ Big Band Jazz

Recorded: 2020 Released: 2021

This is an album by the **Upper Austrian Jazz Orchestra**, led by saxophonist / composer **Christian Maurer** and including many excellent Austrian Jazz musicians like trombonist **Robert Bachner**, pianist **Helmar Hill** and others. The UAJO albums present usually either a concept or special guest, and in this case both, as the music is dedicated to Jazz interpretations of Brazilian Music and the special guests are Brazilian drummer / composer **Fernando Paiva** and vocalist **Verena Loipetsberger**. The album presents ten original compositions, five composed by Paiva and arranged by UAJO members, four composed and arranged by UAJO members and one composed and arranged by **Anna Maurer**, Christian's daughter and a gifted pianist / composer.

The music, although full of familiar Latin / Brazilian rhythms and melodies, sounds quite unusual due to the Big Band arrangements and Jazz accents, which are pretty rare as far as Brazilian Jazz is concerned. The orchestra plays, as usual, brilliantly and the vocalese parts by Loipetsberger add another layer of sound, which takes the music away from the standard Brazilian Jazz. Of course **Flora Purim**, **Airto Moreira** and **Hermeto Pascoal** come to mind immediately, but the European tinge is well mixed within the music and takes it apart from what the Brazilian Jazz fans are used to, which is a great fun.

Overall, this is a great piece of music, which unusually combines the Latin accents with the Big Band sound, creating a surprising amalgam of European Big Band Jazz and Brazilian elements. The UAJO is definitely one of my favorite European Jazz Big Bands and their versatility and superb playing, intricate arrangements and dedication to the music are apparent here, as on all their recordings, all of which are worth exploring. Well done!

Updated: 16/09/2021

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