

Claude Diallo Situation & Bruno Spoerri
HOMAGE TO RICHARD



DOT
TIME
records

1. Sunrise in Manhattan (Claude Diallo)

Claude Diallo spent 10 years in New York where he played with the best musicians of his kind. One morning he left a jazz club in Manhattan after a Jam Session and the sun was just rising. Inspired by the beautiful sunrise that mirrored the many skyscrapers, he composed Sunrise in Manhattan.

2. Amar Pelos Dois (Luisa Sobral)

In 2017, the miracle happened: the first prize of the European Song Contest was won by a wonderful song from Portugal, a composition in the tradition of the Great American Songbook, sung by Salvador Sobral without a background choir and without artists jumping around.

3. Michigan Girl (Isla Eckinger)

Isla Eckinger, a wonderful trombonist, bassist and vibraphonist who grew up in Basel and soon became internationally recognized, died far too early in 2021. He first recorded "Michigan Girl" with guitarist Riner Scivally, then again for his CD "Isla's Island".

4. Warm Blue Stream (Sara Cassey)

I first heard this song by the sadly almost forgotten composer Sara Cassey in a recording by Nat Adderley in 1958, and it has become one of my favorite ballads.

5. Blues For Richie (Bruno Spoerri)

Richard Inrigger's concerts are extremely varied, which is why I wrote a blues for this concert in his villa that alternates between two keys and two jazz styles. I was told afterwards that Richi danced in the background during the recording of this piece.

6. January 10th (Bruno Spoerri)

George Gruntz, the pianist, composer, bandleader and festival director, and Claude Nobs, the director of the Montreux Jazz Festival, two of the most important people in Swiss jazz, died on the same day, January 10, 2013. I was shocked by the loss of these two friends, and so this obituary was written. We first played this composition with the group Cojazz, with Andy Scherrer, Isla Eckinger and Peter Schmidlin, all of whom are no longer with us today.

7. Emily (Johnny Mandel)

Paul Desmond, the alto saxophonist in Dave Brubeck's group, played this composition wonderfully, and I didn't dare to play it for a long time. Now I'm going to try it without copying him.

8. The Boy From Panama (Bruno Spoerri)

No, not the Girl from Ipanema! But the boy from next door! This piece was written in 1974 for our jazz-rock group Container.

9. Dorine (Bruno Spoerri)

This composition from 2012 is dedicated to my beloved partner Dorine Abegg. She says that she senses my state of mind when I play it.

10. Chick To Chick (Bruno Spoerri)

In the seventies, Chick Corea was an important role model for us. I originally wrote this piece for a small film score, and then it became part of the repertoire of our group Container.

11. Swissair Adieu (Bruno Spoerri)

In 1994, I composed the music for a CD-ROM for the Swiss airline Swissair, which was still active and well at the time. Seven years later, after a grounding, Swissair no longer existed. I used the basic themes of this music with its strangely limping rhythm for an improvisation which - like Swissair - ends in a strangely chaotic way.

Homage To Richard Irriger

For nearly three decades, the Villa on Scheckenmann, with its spectacular views of Lake Zurich and the city, has been a port-of-call for Classical, Jazz and World music musicians. Their harbor master is a unique gentleman, the musician's protagonist, a protector of melody, harmony and composition.

There are people that you meet on the journey of life that leave an indelible impression. As I have been blessed and fortunate to travel around the world, seen and experienced many different cultures, customs, communities and individuals, Richard Irriger is an energetic, exuberant, buoyant spirit, who nourishes us with the food of the soul, music. He is a colossus, a giant, a patron of the arts.

This is not the first recording that has come out from the Villa Scheckenmann and hopefully not the last. Over 1500 events have graced the walls of the villa's salon (during Winter) or the outdoor portico (during Summer). The villa is also refuge for the musician, a place to be inspired, to compose, to practice in its many rooms, to allow the artist to reenergize or to rest, welcomed, embraced and supported by the life-force that is its master.

This concert and its subsequent recording did not start out to be a Homage To Richard. It was only after observing him in action preparing for the event, the glow of his face during the performance and his words to his supporters and the performers afterward that I realized the true debt we, the musicians and music lovers, owe him. He is a shining example of what a patron of the arts should be. The world would be a far better place with more Richard Irriger's, more patrons and supporters, more port-of-calls.

Thank you, Richard!

Johanan 'Jo' Bickhardt, Dot Time Records

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HOMAGE TO RICHARD

1. Sunrise In Manhattan (Diallo) (3:57)
2. Amar Pelos Dois (Sobral) (5:04)
3. Michigan Girl (Eckinger) (6:37)
4. Warm Blue Stream (Cassey) (7:11)
5. Blues For Richie (Spoerri) (7:20)
6. January 10th (Spoerri) (5:27)
7. Emily (Mandel) (4:49)
8. The Boy From Panama (Spoerri) (4:49)
9. Dorine (Spoerri) (5:58)
10. Chick to Chick (Spoerri) (3:50)
10. Swissair Adieu (Spoerri) (6:10)

Claude Diallo, piano

Bruno Spoerri, alto & tenor saxophones, electronics, soprano

Luques Curtis, bass

James Williams, drums

Recorded January 21st, 2024 at the Villa Irniger, Zurich, Switzerland

Dominik Meier, Recording Engineer

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