

JOHN KLEMMER "Mosaic" [BEST OF VOL.II]

(liner notes & prose from the CD "Mosaic"
[The Best of John Klemmer Vol. II.]

Time and history tells and shows all
Where we have been and where we might go.
It provides insight to ourselves, other
people and the world in which we live.
For us it can provide the opportunity to
judge our actions and motivations and
perhaps give us a glimpse into the
future. Retrospect for prophecy. It is
crucial in giving us a sense of self.
History and time are frozen in art. It
serves as an in depth study of who and
what we are. Great art stands the test of
time even if it is to be discovered at a
much later age. Like sculpture, painting
and architecture; composition, audio
recordings are stationary entities to be
experienced again and again. New
experiences can be there at each new
encounter with the work.
The compositions and performances in
"Mosaic" is pieces of my life and

emotions as well as selections from different recordings. They were born out of love, quiet, hard work and commitment. A passion to create. Striving for innovation.

To conceive the music for "Touch" and "Barefoot Ballet" that make up "Mosaic", "the best of", I took some years off and did not record or perform. I kept myself as quiet as possible and just read, studied, slept and composed. (Peaceful all night vigils at the piano.) I went back and re-discovered the basics of melody, harmony and rhythm. Not only in music but in life as well. (In one sense I am not a musician. Music is only my vehicle.) I did a complete re-assessment of myself as a person and artist as well as life, society & existence itself.

Out of this fertile time came an understanding and desire of beauty, simplicity and peace. It brought about a deep sense of who I was, what I loved and what I did best especially in a world of ever increasing change and stress.

"Touch" and the recordings that followed

were theme and development concepts. Simple melodic compositions that lent themselves to improvisation. Platforms for expression. Free places to exist. The Saxophone as vocalist. The sound of the "eternal echo" my piano. Effective simplicity for freedom of complexity. Music that melts into you rather than attack you. Honesty and directness for the utmost power in communication. Uncompromising honesty. Setting a fixed place for spontaneity in advance. Ninety percent of this music was improvised. There was a true beauty to the camaraderie between the musicians, producer and engineer. An effortless flow. Most of the recordings were done in four or five sessions. The long agony of birth & the short delivery. Much was learned from the response and success of this music: Society's fear of tenderness, feeling and intimacy, yet, at the same time, a longing so desperately for it. The confusion between sensuality and sexuality. Our Inability to be quiet and still yet the need for it. The joy of

giving pleasure to others and yourself.
The potential for beauty and humanness in
us all. Our need to love and be loved.
"Touched" if you will. A need for
romance, dreams, closeness and quality.
Antidotes to anxiety. A flower in the
cement. Through the attempt to soothe
others I am soothing myself. In trying to
teach I learn. On a certain deep level
what is good for one is good for all. A
universal connection.

This package represents only one phase of
my music. Through this fantastic
invention known as "a recording" I give
you myself. Heart and soul for time and
history.

John Klemmer

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