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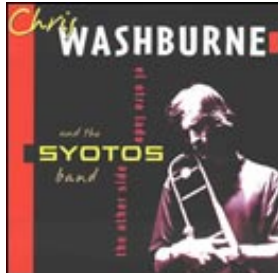
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CHRIS WASHBURNE and the SYOTOS band
The Other Side/El Otro Lado

2001 Jazzheads & Wash and Burne Music

The Other Side / El Otro Lado
CD (Jazzheads 1139), Released 2001;
Total time: 52:13

THE OTHER SIDE/EL OTRO LADO is trombonist Chris Washburne's second outing with The Syotos Band. The project was originally conceived as a collaborative effort with Tito Puente as the featured guest. When Puente died, Washburne decided to pay tribute by featuring some of Puente's classic compositions, such as "Hong Kong Mambo" and "Caonao," interspersed with his own diverse material. This is a first-class tribute to "El Rey."

Washburne is one of those rare musicians who decided early on to follow a diverse musical path. He plays an assortment of instruments including trombone, bass trombone, tuba and percussion. In addition, his style spans the musical gamut: Latin, jazz, rock, classical and experimental music. He has collaborated with Eddie Palmieri, Chico O' Farrill, Ray Vega, Marc Anthony, Arturo Sandoval, The RMM All-Star Big Band, Bobby Sanabria's Grammy nominated Big Band, Gloria Estefan, Celia Cruz, the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, David Byrne, the Boston Art Quartette, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Sun Spits Cherries and Marie Aucliffe's Ark Sextet.

What sets THE OTHER SIDE apart from run-of-mill Latin Jazz is the band's ability to maintain an even balance between jazz and dance music. "It is such a thrill when I'm playing a jazz solo and people are getting down and dancing in front of my horn," says Washburne. METHANE MAMBO, TITORAMA and HONG KONG MAMBO favors the dancer's while DEEP SONG, THE OTHER SIDE and NOW WHAT will interest jazz enthusiasts.

Syotos has performed on Thursday evenings at The Nuyorican Poets Cafe (on the lower-east side) for over 5 years. Their tight, cohesive sound is the result of non-stop engagements year-round. Syotos is one of the hardest working bands in the business.

There are some outstanding contributions by members of the band; featured guest Bobby Sanabria's Puente inspired percussive licks on TITORAMA, the enchanting arrangement of DEEP SONG by Washburne and bass player Harvie Swartz; sax player Ole Mathisen's arrangement of HONG KONG MAMBO and Max Pollak's rumba inflected tap-dancing on SO WHAT?

In 1999 Washburne received his PHD. in Ethnomusicology from Columbia University. He currently holds a teaching position in the jazz department at the New School for Social Research and is an assistant professor at Columbia University. Temple University Press will publish his dissertation, "New York Salsa" in 2002.

I highly recommend this recording. By the way, from now on it's "Doctor" Chris Washburne and Syotos!

Review by Thomas Peña

Song titles include:

1. Titorama 4:54 [[listen](#)]
2. Mamborama 4:58 [[listen](#)]
3. Deep Song 8:48
4. Methane Mambo 3:42
5. The Other Side 4:47 [[listen](#)]
6. New Beginning 7:23 [[listen](#)]
7. Now What? 5:52 [[listen](#)]
8. Caonao 7:42
9. Hong Kong Mambo 3:50

Musicians include:

Chris Washburne - Tenor and bass trombone, tuba, percussion

John Walsh - Trumpet

Ole Mathisen - Tenor and soprano saxes

Bary Olsen - Piano and marimba

Harvie Swartz - Bass

Vince Cherico - Drums

Wilson "Chembo" Corniel - Congas, bata

Special Guests:

Ray Vega - Trumpet and flugelhorn

Bobby Sanabria - Timbales, bata, bongos, hand percussion

Renato Thoms - Bongos, hand percussion on 'Methane Mambo'

Max Pollak - Tap dancer on "Now What?"

Maiken Derno - Korean gong

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