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Mosaic Select: Pacific Jazz Piano Trios [Twardzick, Freeman Rowles & Fischer] (MS 019)

Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:

"I think you will find it advantageous to give these performances repeated listening. His facile imagination demands close attention. Dick Twardzik said of his own playing: 'Development is not my primary consideration. The ability to project ever-changing emotions or moods, plus rhythmic freedom, is far more important to me.'"

Russ Freeman, 1956, original liner notes

This set reinstates a number of important piano recordings made for Pacific Jazz (and in the case of Jimmy Rowles Liberty). Russ Freeman and Rowles were seminal to so much of the important music that emanated from Los Angeles in the '50s and '60s that their achievements would be far too many to list here. Freeman's hard swinging style is featured on 14 tracks made between 1952 and '57. Rowles, an encyclopedic piano maestro, is represented by his rare Liberty album Rare - But Well Done and two Pacific Jazz tracks, made the end of sessions by others.

Richard Twardzik was a startlingly original pianist/composer on the Boston scene in the early '50s. Russ Freeman heard him there and convinced Pacific Jazz to record him. Ironically when he died of an overdose in Paris on October 21, 1955, he was Russ's replacement in the Chet Baker quartet. These seven trio selections represent the only music he recorded professionally as a leader.

Clare Fischer, the only living pianist represented on this set, is best known for his brilliant writing. His abilities as a commanding, inventive jazz pianist have taken a back seat to other achievements. His first two albums, included here, are marvelous trio sessions that feature three of the greatest bassists on the LA scene at the time: Gary Peacock, Ralph Pena and Albert Stinson. Clare consented to the release of three unreleased tunes from these sessions.

Track Listing & Discography

DISC ONE:

1. You Stepped Out Of A Dream (B)	2:43	(H. N. Brown-G. Kahn)
2. Don't Worry 'Bout Me (C)	3:06	(R. Bloom-T. Koehler)
3. Bock's Tops (C)	2:49	(Russ Freeman)
4. Yesterday's Gardenias (C)	2:36	(Robertson-Mysels-Cogane)
5. At Last (B)	2:43	(M. Gordon-H. Warren)
6. Backfield In Motion (C)	2:52	(Russ Freeman)
7. Laugh Cry (B)	2:57	(Russ Freeman)
8. The Eye Opener (C)	3:00	(Russ Freeman)
9. Lullaby In Rhythm (A)	2:19	(Sampson-Profit-Hirsch)
10. East Of The Sun (A)	4:10	(Brooks Bowman)
11. Steeplechase (A)	3:23	(Charlie Parker)
12. The Party's Over (D)	2:58	(Comden-Green-Styne)
13. Joey, Joey, Joey (D)	3:40	(Frank Loesser)
14. Woody's Dot (D)	5:05	(Russ Freeman)
15. Alberquerque Social Swim (E)	3:03	(Richard Twardzik)
16. Bess, You Is My Woman (E)	3:24	(Gershwin-Heyward-Gershwin)
17. Yellow Tango (E)	5:22	(Richard Twardzik)
18. 'Round Midnight (E)	3:46	(Thelonious Monk)
19. I'll Remember April (E)	4:07	(Raye-DePaul-Johnston)
20. A Crutch For The Crab (E)	3:26	(Richard Twardzik)
21. Just One Of Those Things (E)	3:10	(Cole Porter)

DISC TWO:

1. The Day You Came Along (F)	3:46	(S. Coslow-A. Johnston)
2. So Far So Good (F)	3:02	(Lawrence-Mundy-White)
3. Medley (F)	5:45	
a. I Wouldn't Change You For The World		(Jones-Newman)
b. You Are Too Beautiful		(R. Rodgers-L. Hart)
4. Serenade In Blue (F)	3:12	(M. Gordon-H. Warren)
5. Let's Fall In Love (F)	4:31	(H. Arlen-T. Koehler)
6. Medley (F)	4:22	
a. Remember Me		(A. Dubin-H. Warren)
b. There Goes My Heart		(A. Silver-B. Davis)
7. Lady Be Good (F)	4:40	(G. Gershwin-I Gershwin)
8. Chloe (F)	4:29	(C. Daniels-G. Kahn)
9. Topsy (F)	6:03	(E. Durham-E. Battle)
10. Sonny Speaks (G)	3:46	(Sonny Berman)
11. We'll Be Together Again (H)	3:34	(C. Fischer-F. Laine)
12. Strayhorn (J)	5:33	(Clare Fischer)

Mosaic Discographies on livingwithmusic.com

13. Things Ain't What They Used To Be (J)	4:25	(Mercer Ellington)
14. Davenport Blues (J)	5:04	(Bix Beiderbecke)
15. The Thrill Is Gone (J)	4:07	(L. Brown-R. Henderson)
16. Without A Song (I)	5:04	(Youmans-Rose-Eliscu)

DISC THREE

1. Nigerian Walk (I)	7:09	(Ed Shaughnessy)
2. Toddler (I)	4:42	(Clare Fischer)
3. Stranger (I)	4:03	(Gary Peacock)
4. Afterfact (I)	4:07	(Clare Fischer)
5. Free Too Long (I)	7:27	(Clare Fischer)
6. Piece For Scotty (I)	3:10	(Clare Fischer)
7. Blues For Home (I)	5:11	(Clare Fischer)
8. I Love You (I)	5:15	(Cole Porter)
9. Billie's Bounce (K)	6:14	(Charlie Parker)
10. Way Down East (K)	2:32	(Larry Adler)
11. Satin Doll (K)	7:16	(Duke Ellington)
12. This Can't Be Love (K)	3:59	(R. Rodgers-L. Hart)
13. Lennie's Pennies (K)	6:36	(Lennie Tristano)
14. All The Things You Are (K)	7:56	(J. Kern-O. Hammerstein)

(A) Russ Freeman, piano; Red Mitchell, bass; probably Bobby White, drums.

Probably recorded at Gold Star Studios in Los Angeles on December 15, 1952.

Originally issued on TRIO: RUSS FREEMAN/RICHARD TWARDZIK (Pacific Jazz (Japan) CD TOCJ-9347)

NOTE: Chet Baker recorded "Isn't It Romantic" at this session.

(B) Russ Freeman, piano; Joe Mondragon, bass; Shelly Manne, drums.

Recorded at Radio Recorders in Los Angeles on October 27, 1953.

Originally issued on RUSS FREEMAN TRIO (Pacific Jazz 10" LP-8).

(C) Russ Freeman, piano; Joe Mondragon, bass; Shelly Manne, drums.

Recorded at Radio Recorders in Los Angeles on December 28, 1953.

Originally issued on RUSS FREEMAN TRIO (Pacific Jazz 10" LP-8).

(D) Russ Freeman, piano; Monte Budwig, bass; Shelly Manne, drums.

Recorded in Los Angeles on August 12, 1957.

"Woody's Dot" originally issued on HAVE BLUES, WILL TRAVEL (Pacific Jazz JWC 509).

All others originally issued on JAZZ SWINGS BROADWAY (World Pacific WPM-404).

NOTE: These selections were recorded at the end of an Art Pepper Nine session.

(E) Richard Twardzik, piano; Carson Smith, bass; Peter Littman, drums.

Recorded at the Van Gelder Studio, Hackensack, New Jersey in December 1954.

Engineer: Rudy Van Gelder.

"Just One Of Those Things" originally issued on THE LAST SET (Pacific Jazz PJ-37).

All other originally issued on TRIO: RUSS FREEMAN/RICHARD TWARDZIK (Pacific Jazz LP-1212).

NOTE: What was thought to be an alternate take of "A Crutch For The Crab" was merely an edited version of the master take.

(F) Jimmy Rowles, piano; Red Mitchell, bass; Art Mardigan, drums.

Recorded in Los Angeles, c. September 1954.

Engineer: John Neal.

Originally issued on RARE - BUT WELL DONE (Liberty LRP 3003).

(G) Jimmy Rowles, piano; Ben Tucker, bass; Mel Lewis, drums.

Recorded at the Radio Annex Studio in Los Angeles on December 11, 1956

Originally issued on PIANISTS GALORE! (Pacific Jazz JWC 506).

NOTE: This selection was recorded at the end of a Bill Perkins-Art Pepper session, which is available on Mosaic Select: Art Pepper (MS-015).

(H) Jimmy Rowles, piano; Al Hendrickson, rhythm guitar; Joe Mondragon, bass; Nick Fatool, drums.

Recorded at the Forum Theatre in Los Angeles on September 13, 1956.

Originally issued on PIANISTS GALORE! (Pacific Jazz JWC 506).

NOTE: This selection was recorded at the end of a Hoagy Carmichael session.

(I) Clare Fischer, piano; Gary Peacock, bass; Gene Stone, drums.

Recorded at Pacific Jazz Studios, Los Angeles on April 12 & 14, 1962.

Recording engineer: Richard Bock.

"Without A Song" originally issued on SURGING AHEAD - CLARE FISCHER (Pacific Jazz PJ-67).

All others originally issued on FIRST TIME OUT - CLARE FISCHER (Pacific Jazz PJ-52).

(J) Clare Fischer, piano; Ralph Pena, bass; Larry Bunker, drums.

Recorded at Pacific Jazz Studios, Los Angeles on February 6, 1963.

Recording engineer: Richard Bock.

"The Thrill Is Gone" is previously unreleased.

All others originally issued on SURGING AHEAD - CLARE FISCHER (Pacific Jazz PJ-67).

(K) Clare Fischer, piano; Albert Stinson, bass; Colin Bailey, drums.

Recorded at Pacific Jazz Studios, Los Angeles on March 13, 1963.

Recording engineer: Richard Bock.

"Lennie's Pennies" and "All The Things You Are" are previously unreleased.

All others originally issued on SURGING AHEAD - CLARE FISCHER (Pacific Jazz PJ-67).

Original sessions produced by Russ Freeman (E), Harry Babasin (F) and Richard Bock (all others).

Produced for release by Michael Cuscuna.

Remixed from the original three-track masters (sessions I & K), transferred in 24-bit and mastered by Ron McMaster.

Sessions A-H are mono and I-K are stereo

Limited Edition: 5000 copies | 3 CDs - \$39.00

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