



PRESS RELEASE



PAUL KUHN
THE L.A. SESSION
IOR 2LP 77060-3



- Side A
1. Almost The Blues
 2. Just In Time
 3. Close Your Eyes
 4. You've Changed
- Side B
1. On A Clear Day
 2. Griff
 3. Dinah

- Side C
1. Speak Low
 2. Emily
 3. There Will Never Be Another You
 4. My Heart Stood Still
- Side D
1. Ornithology
 2. People

3. As Time Goes By
4. Don't Mean A Thing
5. My World Of Music

Paul Kuhn (piano, vocals)
John Clayton (bass)
Jeff Hamilton (drums)

PAUL KUHN THE L.A. SESSION (IN+OUT Records)

For his 85th birthday, on March 12th, 2013, Paul Kuhn granted himself the fulfillment of a long-lasting dream: In November 2011 he travelled to the legendary Capitol studios in L.A. where he was taken care of by the sevenfold Grammy award-winner Al Schmitt, sound engineer for Henry Mancini's "Breakfast At Tiffany's" as well as for George Benson and Ray Charles, to name but a few. In this magical place, Kuhn sang into the same microphone as Frank Sinatra had once done and was backed by drummer Jeff Hamilton and bassist John Clayton, who were then working with Diana Krall.

When is live worth living?

It is when, one day, you find yourself living up to your dreams! At the age of 17 you are full of dreams. When the GIs of the US Army brought jazz to his hometown Wiesbaden after World War II, the young Paul Kuhn started to embark on a musical career and a life dedicated to jazz.

His path seemed to be already marked out. A highly acclaimed, serious artist with his own trio, big band, invitations to take him abroad, especially to the United States, being pals with Ellington, Basie and many other big stars, an exclusive deal with a major jazz label, maybe even with Blue Note, a more daring hair cut and freaky outfits. He would be the first important German "jazz import". But his career went in a rather different direction, as most of us know - since Paul Kuhn disposes of musicality, wit, entertainment qualities and, on top of that, a good voice. His talents exactly met the needs of the people looking for the joys of life during the 1950s, the decade of the German "Wirtschaftswunder" - a career not involving improvisation, jam sessions and live gigs. But Paul Kuhn returned to his original ambitions, albeit very late, in the mid 1990s. Late, but not too late, Germany came to know Paul Kuhn's real talents, thus providing a correction to his image, - one which was well overdue - on the home stretch of a long and eventful career.

"Actually I've been playing jazz all my life," says Kuhn. Jazz which was cleverly concealed in easy-going, smooth arrangements or in half-private settings. This also worked as a survival formula for him. And he never stopped dreaming - dreaming of America

and of all those great jazz musicians. „Paulchen“ adored that country - New Orleans, the cradle of jazz and of Louis Armstrong, the Mississippi River surrounded by blood-soaked soil. The West Coast with its heroes Chet Baker and Shorty Rogers. Kansas City, hometown of Count Basie. Washington, origin of Duke Ellington. And above all: New York, New York. Frank Sinatra was his biggest idol. Time and again he tried to meet him, but his efforts were in vain, unfortunately. However, at least he wanted to try to come close to the spirit of "Ol' Blue Eyes", and to work at the very place



where he had recorded some of his greatest hits. His dream was fulfilled in November 2011. Arriving at the legendary Capitol studios in L.A., he was taken care of by the sevenfold Grammy award winner, Al Schmitt

Never before has Paul Kuhn sounded like this. Easy-going, relaxed, smart and full of surprises, he responds to the two swing luminaries and deploys all his skills and dexterities. "Working with Jeff Hamilton and John Clayton was a wonderful experience," he says. "Hamilton is an unbelievable drummer with a magic capacity for dynamics. And Clayton has a really elegant style, he could also be a good cello player." All this sums up a sublime session, full of colours with Kuhn's original compositions, "Almost The Blues" and "Griff", dedicated to the late tenor saxophonist, Johnny Griffin, as well as twelve tasteful standards, played with much blood, sweat and tears.

The repertoire ranges from the juvenile up-tempo track "Close Your Eyes" by Ray Noble and the soulful "You've Changed", made famous by Nat King Cole, to the soaring "On A Clear Day", penned by Burton Lane. Kuhn, Hamilton and Clayton transform the otherwise frisky 1925 ballroom gem "Dinah" and "My Heart Stood Still" into an elegant swing mode, while Kurt Weill's "Speak Low" dances cheerfully. Johnny Mandel's "Emily" is a showcase for the bassist's pizzicato ability, which is highly praised by Kuhn. Listening to their version of "Ornithology" you have the impression that Charlie Parker will join in at any moment while the beautiful, noble "People" shows the sensitive power of the combo. Even as a gentleman crooner, Kuhn scores with "Just In Time", a tune for which Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Ella Fitzgerald have set unshakeable standards, as well as with Harry Warren's "There Will Never Be Another You" and his favourite tune, "As Time Goes By".

As a piano player and vocalist with an unfailing sense of rhythm and melody, Kuhn absorbs every note and transforms it into a special form of timeless swing. Who knows, maybe it was necessary for jazz to wait for him during all those decades to meet a now mature musician with a disarming wisdom. Listening to this outstanding session, it becomes very clear that, not only for Kuhn, this waiting was worthwhile.



Also available on Vinyl:



PAUL KUHN AND THE BEST AS TIME GOES BY

Limited Audiophile Edition
plus bonus tracks from the album
„Young At Heart“
limited to 1999 copies

Double Gatefold Album
IOR 2LP 77080-1

PAUL KUHN - piano, vocals, arrangement, director
ACK VAN ROOYEN - trumpet, flügelhorn
CLAUS REICHSTALLER - trumpet, flügelhorn
PETER WENIGER - tenor saxophone
GUSTL MAYER - tenor saxophone
JIGGS WHIGHAM - trombone
TOM WOHLERT - guitar
MARTIN GJAKONOVSKI - bass
WILLY KETZER - drums

DEUTSCHES FILMORCHESTER BABELSBERG
Concertmaster: TORSTEN SCHOLZ

SIDE A

1. Almost The Blues
2. As Time Goes By
3. Limehouse Blues
4. St. Louis Blues
5. Softly As In A Morning Sunrise

SIDE B

1. A Child Is Born
2. Too Close For Comfort
3. Yesterdays
4. Move
5. 'Round Midnight

SIDE C

1. Take The A Train
2. That Old Feeling
3. If I Had You
4. I'm Getting Sentimental Over You
5. I Can't Give You Anything But Love
6. Blue Monk

SIDE D (Bonus Tracks from the album „Young At Heart“)

1. The Best Is Yet To Come
2. Swedish Pastry
3. Well You Needn't
4. Wave
5. Stitt's Tune