

Jazz

NEW RELEASE INFORMATION - RELEASE DATE 30/1/2012



ECM

Tord Gustavsen Quartet The Well

2785896 602527858968 CD ECM JAZZ

Two years after the album *Restored, Returned* introduced this line-up and with extensive touring behind them, on *The Well* the four musicians of the Tord Gustavsen Quartet really blossom as a band in a programme of new tunes by the Norwegian pianist. Sax player Tore Brunborg is given an important voice here, his melodic lines combining bluesy sonority and Nordic cry. Gently but effectively propelled by the subtle pulses of drummer Jarle Vespestad and bassist Mats Eilertsen, Gustavsen's gospel-tinged, unhurried piano playing displays a characteristic warmth and tenderness.

Tord Gustavsen's ideas for *The Well* began right after the release of *Restored, Returned* at the end of 2009. "It developed very gradually, the repertoire kept adding new aspects slowly. In the course of these years I also had two commissions to work on, which turned out to fit very naturally in the material for the album. So even though I feel that *The Well* has become a very unified and coherent album, it still is a mixture of songs written individually and of pieces written as a commission for the 2011 Cheltenham Jazz Festival and pieces for the Oslo International Church Music Festival."

Tord Gustavsen has been one of ECM's biggest selling artists over the past decade. Tord's debut CD *Changing Places* (0163972), the first of three trio albums with Jarle Vespestad on drums and the late Harald Johnsen on bass, immediately created a huge international audience for his music, attracted by its sublime beauty, his hummable melodies, and the seamless interplay of the musicians. *The Ground* (4761938) and *Being There* (1723517) were even more successful. *Restored, Returned* (1798987) added the blues-inflected voice of Kristin Asbjørnsen on Tord's settings of the poetry of W.H. Auden.

Personnel: Tord Gustavsen (piano), Tore Brunborg (tenor saxophone), Mats Eilertsen (double-bass), Jarle Vespestad (drums)

Tracks: Prelude / Playing / Suite / Communion / Circling / Glasgow Intro / On Every Corner / The Well / Communion, var. / Intuition / Inside

UK Tour from 16-25 March:

- 16 March: Southampton, Turner Sims
- 17 March: Manchester, Royal Northern College Of Music
- 18 March: London, Queen Elizabeth Hall
- 19 March: Bury St. Edmunds, The Apex
- 20 March: Much Wenlock, The Edge Arts Centre
- 21 March: Leeds, The Venue, Leeds College of Music
- 22 March: Bristol, St. George's
- 23 March: Birmingham, CBSO Centre
- 24 March: Edinburgh, Queen's Hall
- 25 March: Gateshead, The Sage