

CD /DVD INFORMATION:

Tony Gould on the art of creative music - DVD & CD

Move Records MD 3412

Documentary Film Directed By Henk van Leeuwen & Tony Gould May 2015

Music Selection by Tony Gould

Live CD & documentary performance footage recorded at Bennetts Lane & Melbourne Recital Centre Feb 2015

This eighty minute audio CD and sixty minute DVD documentary “Tony Gould & the Art of Creative Music” features some of Melbourne’s fantastic music venues: The Melbourne Recital Centre and Bennett’s Lane Jazz Club.

Both of these places are where Professor Tony Gould, educator, pianist, and composer and his jazz comrades feel most at home.

Gould chats with interviewer and documentary director and producer, Henk van Leeuwen, a passionate advocate of Australian European cultural jazz music exchanges and liaisons to discuss various aspects of Australian improvised music culture and jazz.

Creative Improvisation, Gould says is being kept alive thanks to the plethora of jazz musicians who continue to re-explore and re-define the American jazz standards such as Rodgers’ & Hart’s *My Funny Valentine*, featured on both the DVD & CD, played emotively by saxophonist, Graeme Lyall. Another highlight is Lyall playing the track *Lover Man*.

It’s a well crafted and thought out musical documentary split into chapters interspersing Gould’s live performance footage from 2015 with various interview topics. It’s refreshing to see jazz on DVD performed by some of Melbourne’s best jazz artists and educators, and presented to motivate and inspire music fans and students to get off the couch and explore their own city, the sounds they hear and the jazz and of their surrounds. The music also enchants with it’s varying styles and pace and is a great listen.

One track Gould performs is the van Heusen / Cahn duet *The Second Time Around* featuring the captivating vocals of Melbourne jazz singer, Michelle Nicole. Nicole re-imagines this song interpretation in her own sensitive way. Gould says: “All music making is all creative....they (the musicians) are bringing new life to the music on the page.”

Various topics are explored including creativity, improvisation, music making, attitude and intergenerational experience. The latter is something that Gould relishes, saying many of the musicians he works with “keep me young,” while other students inspire keep him to playing and composing. Imogen Manins is one such featured talented cellist Gould admires. She plays with him on the *Schindler’s List* track.

Gould feels that jazz musicians are starting to spread their own wings, and move into improvisation via exploring films scores such as *Schindler’s List*, and he advises future music students about composition and improvisation. “Forget about genres and idioms, choose the music you love as much as you think other people will. It (*Schindler’s List*) suits the cello and is a lovely cross over between jazz, and classical.”

Henk van Leeuwen also explores jazz further with Gould as a “minority art form” and craft, to which he has some wonderful insights. Jazz musicians can be very self absorbed when they play – do they play for themselves or their audience?

“The jazz players play for themselves, which sounds terribly selfish...Selfishness it’s not...I think that’s the embracing of the people you listen to (if you’re sitting in audience listening to the musician)..come on the journey, it’s the journey, we don’t know what’s going to happen.”

“There’s a wonderful camaraderie, Australian musicians base their playings on “I trust you” we’ll see how it goes....you don’t get told what to do.”

Gould also says for many jazz artists who improvise, becoming absorbed “in the moment” varies greatly from that of the familiar classical music world.

Promotion of improvisational jazz can be tricky. “It’s a hard music to grasp if you don’t saturate yourself in it,” he says. “It’s incredibly exciting, but also can be disconcerting for people to come and listen to and they haven’t got anything really to hang onto unless they know the language.”

He speaks highly of those dedicated to their craft and music.

Another featured artist on the DVD & CD is “master” classical Indian tabla musician Sam Evans. Gould says he spent 10 years over in Calcutta, playing Indian music and exploring the genre and sound. He’s one to watch in the future.

“Sam brings something special to improvised music...he’s creating and composing music where the Tabla can be integrated into various music compositions.”

As for Gould’s next jazz music / improvisational project, he gives very little away. One of the pieces on the release is called *The First Day of Spring* draws on a classical music line with a European melody. “The beat is obscured, which I love, that’s the essence to my current playing at the moment,” he says.

Thanks to this great DVD release, you can enjoy the featured tracks in full on the accompanying CD. This is definitely one you’ll want to listen to repeatedly.

Tony Gould on The Art of Creative Music was independently reviewed by Alison Lee-Tet. Alison is the presenter & producer of “Jazz Rivers” on Melbourne Community radio station 3MBS 103.5 FM.