

ACT

Youn Sun Nah

Lento

ACT 9030-2

German Release Date: 22.03.2013

Female singers who manage to stir a whole genre are seldom found. Diana Krall and Norah Jones are such outstanding talents who gave vocal jazz a whole new colour, and Korean singer Youn Sun Nah has been equally phenomenal. In the last few years she has conquered the music world with her albums "Voyage" (2009) and "Same Girl" (2010) released on ACT.

"A miracle", "a great piece of art", "enchanting" "a world-class singer" – just some of the overwhelmingly positive responses from the press to these albums. Within two years Nah had received her fourth "Korean Music Award", the BMW World Jazz Award and the ECHO Jazz Award for best international female singer whilst in France, her second home, "Same Girl" was the best selling jazz album of the year in 2011, Nah received the "Prix Mimi Perrin du Jazz Vocal" as female vocalist of the year, the leading magazine "Jazzman" awarded her with "Choc de l'annee 2012" as artist of the year and she was granted the title of nobility "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the culture secretary, putting her in the prominent company of such stars as David Bowie, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Dustin Hoffman.

What is the secret of her remarkable success? Her new album "Lento" gives an explanation by combining Youn Sun Nah's unique qualities. One of them is the blending of different cultural and musical sources, in a respectful yet unconventional manner. Besides jazz and related styles, she draws on chanson, pop and folk music, and in addition to compositions by herself and her band members, there is the extremely light version of the Korean folk song "Arirang" as well as "Hurt" by the alternative rock band Nine Inch Nails, and Stan Jones' "Ghost Riders In The Sky", a classic country song made famous by Johnny Cash.



For the first time Nah also calls upon European classical music: Alexander Skrjabin's Prelude op. 16 Nr. 4 in E minor with its tempo indication "Lento" was a source of inspiration for the album's title, and it also sets up an intimate, atmospheric and harmonious musical world. Youn Sun Nah unfolds her expressive power especially in the peaceful and slow-paced moments – on the fragile chanson "Full Circle", with heartbreaking grievance on "Lament" or artistic unison singing on "Momento Magico".

On "Lento" it becomes more apparent that Nah's voice ties the songs together. It is the precision of her intonation and phrasing, great timing and crystal voice that enable her to turn minimalistic forms into powerful emotions, pure elegance and magic. All this requires extremely subtle and considerate co-musicians, therefore the successful lineup from "Same Girl" was the first choice for "Lento" as well: Nah's longstanding duet partner Ulf Wakenius on guitar, Lars Danielsson on bass and Xavier Desandre-Navarre on percussions. The fourth member of the band is new - the French accordion magician Vincent Peirani. Two pieces on "Lento" were written by him and, similarly to Youn Sun Nah, his variations and ideas seem to emerge from an inner voice, which is one of the reasons why there is perfect interaction between the two musicians.

With her universal yet individual style Youn Sun Nah gives traditional vocal jazz a new flavour, while unconventionally and effortlessly exploring new exciting spaces. She is one of the most outstanding representatives of vocal jazz that includes the whole spectrum of contemporary music.

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- 01 **Lento** (Alexander Scriabin / Youn Sun Nah) 3:05
- 02 **Lament** (Youn Sun Nah) 3:40
- 03 **Hurt** (Nine Inch Nails) 5:23
- 04 **Empty Dream** (Vincent Peirani / Youn Sun Nah) 4:21
- 05 **Momento Magico** (Ulf Wakenius) 5:33
- 06 **Soundless Bye** (Youn Sun Nah) 3:44
- 07 **Full Circle** (Vincent Peirani / Youn Sun Nah) 3:36
- 08 **Ghost Riders In The Sky** (Stan Jones) 4:58
- 09 **Waiting** (Lars Danielsson / Cæcilie Norby) 3:31
- 10 **Arirang** (Korean traditional) 4:25
- 11 **New Dawn** (Youn Sun Nah) 3:41

Produced by Youn Sun Nah & Axel Matignon
Executive producer: Jae Jin In

Also available as 180gr Doppel-Vinyl-LP.

Youn Sun Nah on ACT:

Same Girl Collector's Edition (ACT 9024-2, 2011)
Same Girl (ACT 9024-2, 2010)
Voyage (ACT 9019-2, 2009)

Youn Sun Nah / vocals
Ulf Wakenius / guitars
Lars Danielsson / bass & cello
Vincent Peirani / accordion & accordina
Xavier Desandre-Navarre / percussion

Distributor:

Allegro-Nail Distribution (US)
A&N Music (GR)
Andante Music (RO)
Apostrophe (RU)
C&L Records (KR)
Divyd (SK)
Dukyan Meloman (BG)
Challenge Records Int. (Benelux)
DC Comp (UA)
edelkultur (DE & AT)
Egea (I)
Equinox Music (TR)
GI GI Distribution (PL)
Gramofon (BA)
Harmonia Mundi (FR)
Harmonia Mundi (UK)
Intek (SI+HR)
Jassics (ZA)
Jazzworld (HK)
JSC "Bomba" (LT)
Karonte (ES & PT)
Musikklosen (NO)
Musikvertrieb (CH)
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