

RITUALS NICOLA CONTE

2008 is the year of "Rituals", which confirms the multifaceted talent of the artist and instrumentalist from Bari. Recorded between the end of 2005 and the October of 2007, also this work first of all develops around the historical faithful team which follows the artist in the live shows. Here we find again Pietro Lussu, Pietro Ciancaglini, Fabrizio Bosso, Lorenzo Tucci and Daniele Scannapieco, with whom Nicola elaborated lots of tracks contained in the album.

Afterwards the band has been flanked the other friends of theirs, Gianluca Petrella, Gaetano Partipilo and Till Bronner, who also attended the previous "Other Directions".

Also this album grew up through several production phases, and shows a sharper appearance, thanks above all to the love for both the overseas and European jazz.

The Afro kind of Jazz is celebrated with the participation of Greg Osby and Michael Pinto.

The first one is a talented alto sax musician and one of the gurus in the New York jazz scene, resident in the "roaster" of the Blue Note for twenty years; the second one instead is a vibraphone musician born in New Jersey, a kind of rising star who grew up at the Berklee School of Music. As opposed to the overseas scene, the melodies and the feelings typical of the European school are demonstrated strongly through the energy and taste typically expressed in the north of Europe, particularly in Scandinavia: Timo Lassy and Teppo Maikinen, already famous in their home country, Finland, and highly considered in Italy because of their participation on the Five Corners Quintet's album, respectively as a saxophonist and a drummer.

The utilization of the voices gives us great artistic importance and depth. These voices belong to Chiara Civello and Alice Ricciardi and express all the warmth and intensity typically Italian.

The first one, born in Rome, achieved success in the States, where she was already living and studying singing. Some years ago she made her worldwide debut with Verve Records, with the intuition of Burt Bacharach who produced some tracks of her first album.

The other singer, born and living in Milan, is the new Italian Jazz singer at Blue Note. We are in front of two emotional women with great vocalisms. They show a different appeal but perfectly malleable to the melodic tessitura of the songs. A black kind of vocalism is expressed differently by Kim Sanders, a sophisticated Berliner soul singer, who already had the chance to perform during the various Jazz Combo live shows, and which represents a connection with the Afro



American culture. For the first time in a Nicola Conte's album we find some male voices, as well as those of the newer and original ones of the international market. Josè James, a singer from New York who has been acknowledged by the European media thanks to the intuition of Gilles Peterson. The famous dj was so amazed during a concert of the singer while he was performing "Equinox" by John Coltrane, that he decided to produce for him an entire album. Josè James takes care of the great singer's past tradition, those big names like Joe Williams, Nat King Cole and Mark Murphy, but using a timbre similar to the one typical of Andy Bey's voice of the first years.

Another fascinating voice is Philippe Weiss' one, who gave us a memorable performance in "Caravan", one of the most famous Duke Ellington's pieces which, together with "Macedonia" by Dusko Gojkovic represents the unique unoriginal compositions of this work.

"Rituals" signals a switch in Nicola Conte's artistic career, further developed thanks to his effort in the creation of the songs and lyrics of the record. Just as it happened in the previous album, also here we find references to the literary culture dear to Nicola which helped him find inspiration during the writing phase.

Among the poet's lectures which influenced the lyrics we find those of Dylan Thomas and the American Langstone Hughes.

There are some pieces in the album which were inspired more than the others by the literature of these two writers.

The first one is "Like Heavens In The Wind", whose lyrics were performed by Josè James. His words are accompanied by the wind instruments with Till Bronner and Sandro Deidda, a valued musician from Campania who is present in seven pieces of the album.

The other two songs in question are "I See All Shades Of You", with Alice Ricciardi's classical interpretation, and "The Nubian Queens", where the drumming by the Finn Teppo Maikinen leaves immediately its mark. The solos by Fabrizio Bosso and Timo Lassy seems to be unbreakable till the end of the song.

Another innovation immediately perceptible listening to "Rituals" is the compositive form, the colours, the feelings and the romantic mood which are expressed through the blue notes of the guitar played by Nicola Conte (here as an instrumentalist). Among the most famous great historical instrumentalists of the past Nicola Conte is influenced by Barney Kessel, Jim Hall, Wes Montgomery, Grant Green, Pat Martino, Gabor Szabo, Kenny Burrell. Great artistic conceptions which still promise us future new productions of this great Italian artist.



NICOLA CONTE * *RITUALS* *

- 01 KARMA FLOWER
- 02 THE NUBIAN QUEENS
- 03 LIKE LEAVES IN THE WIND
- 04 LOVE IN
- 05 AWAKENING
- 06 PAPER CLOUDS
- 07 I SEE ALL SHADES OF YOU
- 08 MACEDONIA
- 09 SONG OF THE SEASONS
- 10 RED SUN
- 11 BLACK IS THE GRACEFUL VEIL
- 12 CARAVAN
- 13 RITUALS

music and lyrics written by Nicola Conte

*except tracks: 05 lyrics by Josè James, 08 music by Dusko Gojkovic
09 music by Sandro Deidda and Nicola Conte and 12 music by J. Tizol*

Pietro Lussu – piano

solos on 03

Fabrizio Bosso – trumpet

solos on 02, 05 and 07

Daniele Scannapieco – tenor sax

solos on 07

Pietro Ciancaglini – double bass

Lorenzo Tucci – drums

Nicola Conte – guitar

Gianluca Petrella – trombone

appears on tracks 03 and 10 - solos on 03

Gaetano Partipilo – alto saxophone

appears on tracks 04, 05, 09 and 13 - solos on 05

Till Brönner – trumpet

appears on tracks 03, 12 and 13 - solos on 12

special guests:

Greg Osby – alto saxophone

appears on tracks 09 and 11 - solos on track 11

Timo Lassy – baritone saxophone and flute

appears on tracks 01, 02, 04, 06 and 09 - solos on tracks 02 and 04

Teppo Mäkinen – drums *appears on tracks 02 and 04*

Michael Pinto – vibes *appears on track 11 - solos on track 11*



vocals special guests:

Kim Sanders – lead vocals

appears on tracks 04, 10 and 11 - back vocals on track 01

Chiara Civello – lead vocals

appears on tracks 01 and 06

Alice Ricciardi – lead vocals

appears on track 07 and 09

Jose' James – lead vocals

appears on tracks 02, 03 and 05

Philipp Weiss – lead vocals

appears on tracks 12 - back vocals on track 04

Sandro Deidda – tenor saxophone and flute

appears on tracks 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 09, 10 and 12

Mario Corvini – trombone

appears on tracks 02, 03, 04, 06, 07 and 09

Giovanni Amato – trumpet

appears on tracks 02, 03, 04, 06, 07 and 09

Dario Deidda – double bass

appears on track 11

Pierpaolo Bisogno – vibes, bongos and congas

Diane Peters – harp

horns arrangements by Sandro Deidda on tracks 02, 04, 06, 07

horns arrangements by Sandro Deidda and Till Brönner on track 03

horns arrangements by Gianni LeNoci and Sandro Deidda on track 05

horns arrangements by Till Brönner on track 12

Produced by Nicola Conte

recorded in Bari at Sorriso Studio

during various session from autumn 2005 to winter 2007

sound engineer by Tommy Cavalieri

art direction by Roberta Dispoto

original cover photo by Pino Ninfa

Josè James appears courtesy of Brownswood Recordings

Till Brönner appears courtesy of Universal Germany

Chiara Civello appears courtesy of Universal Italy

Alice Ricciardi appears courtesy of Blue Note - Emi Music Italy

Fabrizio Bosso appears courtesy of Blue Note - Emi Music Italy

Gaetano Partipilo appears courtesy of Universal Music Italy

Timo Lassy and Teppo Makkinen appears courtesy of Ricky Tick

Gianluca Petrella appears courtesy of Blue Note - Emi Music Italy

