

Songbook
Yuval Shay-El

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Omer Ben-Asher
Valera Lipets



"Songbook" presents nine original instrumental jazz songs composed by Israeli pianist and composer Yuval Shay-El. These songs have been part of his ongoing repertoire with various jazz bands for several years. Here they are recorded in a classical jazz piano trio, with the composer on piano joined by two of the most talented Israeli musicians, Omer Ben-Asher on drums and percussion and Valera Lipets on double-bass. The songs are performed in a jazz-standards form including themes ("heads") and improvisations. The music is influenced by various styles such as swing, bebop, Latin, samba, rock and blues. All styles are creatively blended together into a fresh sound emanating from the personal styles of the musicians and their collaboration.

The CD is dedicated to Tami and Amit, Yuval's wife and newborn son .

About the songs:

The CD opens with "Elementary" a medium-speed swing tune based on a simple (elementary) melodic phrase. The improvisation section includes a piano solo followed by a bass solo and concludes with solo trading between the piano and the drums before returning to the primary tune. "Charles River" is a slow jazz waltz inspired by the tranquility and peacefulness of this Bostonian river. Another version of this song appeared on the CD of Atmos Trio "One song, one dance" (2001). "Roving" is a fast samba-like tune, roving between three scales (D-minor, F-minor and Ab-major) and ending on a fourth one, B-major. It introduces drummer Omer Ben-Asher in a congas solo . "Mitsy" is a slow and groovy song, with some funk and reggae flavors. "Morocco Trane" is a fast tune in a triplet rhythm somewhat alluding to both the way John Coltrane used to play waltzes and the way triplet rhythms are used in North African music. "Jiggle Blues" uses a blues shuffle rhythm but in a non-traditional twenty-two-bar harmonic form . "Fragile Love" is a slow and dreamy ballad. This piece, one of the oldest members of Yuval Shay-El's songbook, was first recorded in 1994 in a version for trumpet. "Little Spring Rock" is a happy slow rock song for the beginning of spring, somewhat inspired by some of Keith Jarrett's recordings in the 70s. An earlier recording of this piece was the opening track on the CD of Atmos Trio "One song, one dance" (2001). The final song is "You Don't Say", a fast song in a salsa-like rhythm.