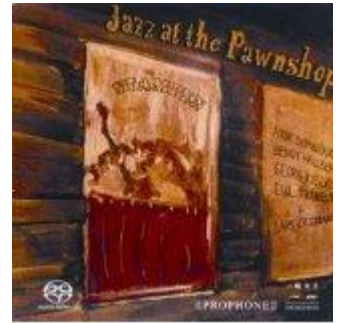


Jazz at the Pawnshop

Arne Domnérus was a Swedish clarinet and alto sax player. Unfortunately he passed away in 2008 but this album remains as a classic jazz album. It was recorded a long time ago now, in 1977 and the simplicity of the recording setup just makes this into a lovely 'slice of time'. No complicated mixing desks or 'ambience' mics; just set up a stereo pair of mics and take what comes from the band, warts and all. Except that this is a gem of a recording.

Domnérus was prolific with all of these albums recorded:

- Rockin Chair, His Masters Voice, 1955
- Mobil, Megafon, 1967
- Jazz at the Pawnshop, with Bengt Hallberg, Lars Erstrand, Georg Riedel, Egil Johansen, 1977
- Downtown Meeting with Clark Terry, 1977
- Scandinavian Design, 1977
- Duets for Duke, with Bengt Hallberg, Sonet, 1978
- Arne Domnerus with Jimmy Rowles, 1979, FLCCD 2005
- Arne Domnerus Nontett & Quartett, Bröst-toner, FLCCD 2006
- Arne Domnerus Quartett, Evergreens fra Kanaan
- Arne Domnerus Quartett, Dompan at the Savoy, with Ulf Johansson, Phonastic, PHONCD 8806, 1990
- Skyline Drive, with Benny Carter, 1992
- Sugar Fingers, Phontastic, PHONCD 8831, 1993
- Happy Together, with Putte Wickman, 1995
- Live is life, Arne Domnérus with Lars Erstrand, 1995, PRCD 9142
- Black Beauty, the Duke in mind, with Joya Sherril, Phonastic,
- Arne Domnerus Quartett, Blåtoner fra Troidhaugen, Music by Edvard Grieg, FXCD65, 1986
- Face to face, with Bernt Rosengren, 1999
- Dompan! 2000, Fresh Sound FSR 5032
- Jump For Joy 1959–1961, Dragon, 2002
- Favourite Groups 1949–1950, 2002
- Antiphone Blues, Proprius, CPRO 7744, 2003 (with organist Gustav Sjökvist)
- Arne Domnerus Quartett, Sabra, 2004



The emphasis on this album is 'honesty' and capturing the lovely atmosphere of the place with people drinking and having a live band play as a backdrop. It's such a well regarded jazz album that it is available on quite a few different formats including SACD.

It opens with the audience! We get the ambience of the place with the band getting ready to play. The band starts up with drum kit on brushes, clarinet, vibes, piano and bass. Clarinet leads with the melody for 'Limehouse Blues'. He had a really rich clarinet sound that is recorded well here. His playing is really fluid and the band is really together with no sense of nerves – just relaxed playing. The piano does a little quiet vamping in the background while the vibes plays behind the clarinet, answering his phrases and then leaps in with a gorgeously fluid solo while the band plays the chord sequence to the 'Limehouse Blues'. The piano playing in the back is really subtle, with him playing short, quiet chord stabs.

No manipulation on the recording here. You'd think that the vibes had been turned up on the recording when he solos, but it's the musicians themselves balancing what you get.. This solo is really

virtuosic and it sounds as though it's easy to play!! Piano continues with the quiet stabs and the clarinet plays quiet answering phrases underneath.

Next there is a piano solo following some audience clapping. The drums have changed over to sticks and there is now a walking bass. (A bass that continues with the same length notes, non-stop, following the harmony) This is like the band has really woken up. The piano plays a link passage where the drums stop and he's left with just the bass. A short musical joke passage leading to a second piano solo with the drums back on brushes. The walking bass continues.

Audience applause and the clarinet returns with the vibes. Back to the original mix of sound with the drums on sticks again playing a swing rhythm on the cymbal.

The piece builds in dynamics and has a much more solid beat going with an offbeat added by the drums.

The next episode is lower in dynamic and that drummer has gone back to brushes. (Has he got four hands?)

There is a wonderful set of joke endings. The piece keeps ending and then continues. It's a lovely finish and always attracts my interest. There is a great musical sense of humour shown here. The audience really get it too!!

This album consists of three CD's. It's beautifully recorded on location with just two mics onto tape. The quality is superb and the musicianship is absolutely stunning.

This album is really worth getting if you enjoy traditional jazz.

