

Dr. Charl P. Du Plessis

University of Pretoria
Department of Music

Creative Output 2016

Pretoria, 3 November 2016

Background to the CD recording submitted for creative output assessments
2016

Baroqueswing Vol. II

During the Festival Musikdorf Ernen in Ernen, Switzerland I had the privilege of performing with my trio during the international Baroque week for the fifth consecutive year. In the previous year I recorded Baroqueswing Vol. I under my own recording label as the sixth album of my career. This first Baroqueswing disc generated interest from various recording companies and resulted in the recording of Baroqueswing Vol. II. This concert recording is my first international CD release on the Swiss CLAVES record label.

For this concert I compiled a new jazz programme of works from the Baroque but all re-arranged for jazz piano trio. All the arrangements on the disc are my original work and the performance in the Church of St. Georg was recorded LIVE in front of a sold out audience, without any editing.

CLAVES records is Switzerland's leading recording label and was founded in 1968. As a reputable recording company, it has many well known artists on its catalogue including Claudio Abbado, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Heinz Holliger, and Theresa Berganza to name but a few. The aim with the Baroqueswing Vol. II project was to release the first cross-over project on the CLAVES label in the international music market that could compete with already established products in the crossover field of jazz and classical music.

The Tonmeister for the recording was the well-known Jean-Claude Gaberel, who was also responsible for the mastering. The presentation of the CD is a high-gloss digi-pack with printing quality of the highest standard done in Austria with program notes by the arranger and Patrick Peikert (Producer).

The musical content is aimed to enlighten the listening experience of the connoisseur but not to deter the inexperienced listener, whilst still exuding musical joy, good taste and at time a display of virtuosity. A varied programme with multiple styles, genres and a wide pianistic scope is presented.

The CD was released in 2016 and has received positive reviews from both international and local media and was awarded a South African Music Award (SAMA) in 2017 as best Classical/Instrumental album. This product is available for international sale/download on iTunes and Amazon.

I include Creative Output reviews by four international musicians with who I have collaborated in the past year. I am grateful for the opportunity to submit this work as my creative output for 2016.



Dr Charl du Plessis

www.claves.ch



**CHARL
DU PLESSIS
BAROQUE SWING VOL. II
TRIO**

JAZZ

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)		
Toccatà & Fugue in D Minor BWV 565		
1	I. Toccata	02:29
2	II. Fugue	04:40
CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK (1714-1787)		
3	Mélodie from Orphée & Eurydice	03:41
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH		
4	Invention 8 in F Major BWV 779	01:00
5	Invention 4 in D Minor BWV 775	09:56
6	Invention 13 in A Minor BWV 784	03:34
CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK		
7	Ballet des ombres heureuses from Orphée & Eurydice	03:57
ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)		
Le quattro stagioni, Concerto No. 1 in E Major RV 269 «La Primavera»		
8	I. Allegro	02:52
9	II. Largo	03:54
10	III. Allegro. Pastorale	04:23

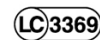
GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)		
Suite in D minor, HWV 437		
11	III. Sarabande. Grave	03:45
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH		
Prelude & Fugue No. 3 in C-Sharp Major BWV 848		
12	I. Prelude	01:38
13	II. Fugue	03:47
New Jazz-Suite		
14	I. Preludium - Cello Suite no. 1 BWV 1007	04:49
15	II. Allemande - French Suite no. 5 BWV 816	01:55
16	III. Aria - Goldberg Variations BWV 988	02:15
17	IV. Sarabande - Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring from Cantata BWV 147	06:04
18	V. Chorale - Ich Rufe zu Dir Herr Jesu Christ BWV 639	02:26
19	VI. Gigue - Partita no. 1 BWV 825	03:15
GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898-1937)		
20	I Got Rhythm	03:02



All arrangements by Charl du Plessis
 Recorded live at Festival Musikdorf Ernen
 Kirche St. Georg, Ernen, Switzerland, 26 July 2015

**MUSIKDORF
 ERNEN***

© 2016 Claves Records
 © 2016 Claves Records
 www.claves.ch
 Total time: 73:45



hebdoscope

ECOUTE

CHARL DU PLESSIS TRIO

OCTOBRE 31, 2016 | HEBDOSCOPE | LAISSER UN COMMENTAIRE



Après un premier volume fort réussi, ce nouvel opus du Charl du Plessis trio enregistré au festival Musikdorf d'Ernen, s'attaque à d'autres morceaux bien connus du répertoire tels que les Quatre Saisons de Vivaldi, la fameuse Sarabande de Haendel rendue célèbre par le film

Barry Lindon ou la Toccata et fugue de Bach.

On est une nouvelle fois enchanté par cette initiative qui vise à transcender les frontières parfois trop hermétiques entre musique classique et jazz.

Les grands classiques de la musique baroque sont réinventés et il faut dire que la magie opère immédiatement. Cette réinterprétation est proprement bluffant ici car la composition des oeuvres n'a pas été modifiée mais transformée, jazzifiée en quelque sorte. Et l'on comprend alors mieux pourquoi ces morceaux traversent les époques et demeurent immortels.

On en viendrait même à danser sur du Bach...

Laurent Pfaadt

Baroqueswing vol. II,
Claves Records

“Charl du Plessis And Trio Understand Baroque”

BEELD 26 Sept 2016

Review by Paul Boekkooi

Think of the Swingle Singers, Jacques Loussier Trio and Raymond Guiot Quintet: Great jazz improvisations, sometimes at a virtuoso pace, like that of an express train. Although Bach and his companions had to loosen their wigs temporarily, a solid bridge between classic and jazz was eventually built.

Our own Charl du Plessis - also naturally somewhere genetically part of a highly musical French gene pool - is one of a minority South African musicians with an understanding of Baroque and inclusiveness that such a concept implies.

He and his trio's latest CD, entitled *Baroqueswing Vol. II* proves how vivid this movement and its procedures, which started almost 50 years ago, can still be applied in a most adventurous manner.

It was recorded last year in July in front of an audience in St. George's Church in Ernen, Switzerland, and represents the first issue of a new recording contract Du Plessis has signed with renowned Swiss classic record label Claves.

With 19 tracks of Baroque music and a 20th one where George Gershwin with his *I Got Rhythm* lurk around the corner (because this is the trio's encore was at this concert). Listeners marvelled at the freedom that the very old masters such as Bach, Gluck, Handel and Vivaldi Du Plessis and his two co-stars, Werner Spies (double bass) and Hugo Radyn (drums), granted.

Already in the opening work, the famous *Tocatta and Fugue in d, BWV 565*, originally for organ, it becomes clear that Du Plessis is able to contrast the lightness and seriousness extremely effectively in his arrangements.

This happens even stronger in the three *Inventions*, respectively Nos. 8, 4 and 13, in which the pianist not necessarily strictly follows the notes image.

The first one starts quite puzzling, the second one quite impressionistic and the way he highlights these aspects on the piano, is much more interesting than with his first attempts at arrangements of this sort.

In Gluck's "*Melody*" and "*Ballets des ombres heureuses*" from *Orphée et Eurydice* there are again rich contrasts, with the latter one is a light-hearted swing arrangement with drive.

Equally unusual is the trio's version of Vivaldi's "*Spring Concert*" from *The Four Seasons*.

Du Plessis's way of imitating the solo violin's sound on the piano is remarkable. Even with repeated listening something new can be discovered thanks to these formidable musicians.

BAROQUESWING VOL. II - Charl du Plessis Trio. Music of JS Bach, Gluck, Vivaldi, Handel and Gershwin. Charl du Plessis (piano and arrangements), Werner Spies (double bass) and Hugo Radyn (drums). Claves CD 50-1609.