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Brad Mehldau
JALC Season 14
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1) Vox: Larry Grenadier

"The first thing you notice about a musician is their sound. You walk into a club and that's what you hear. And with Brad, it's very much a pure sound, // very balanced, very even. It's a beautiful sound.

2) Music:

3) Bradley:

PIANIST BRAD MEHLDAU'S SOUND CAN BE TRACED TO HIS INTENSIVE STUDY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AS A CHILD.

IN PERFORMANCE, HE USES THAT SOUND AS A VEHICLE FOR FAR-REACHING IMPROVISATION. MEHLDAU HUNCHES DOWN CLOSE TO THE PIANO. HIS HEAD HOVERS JUST ABOVE THE KEYBOARD. HIS FINGERS COAX A COMPELLING NARRATIVE FROM HIS CONSTANTLY UNSPOOLING MELODIC AND HARMONIC IDEAS.

4) Vox: Brad Mehldau

"I'm a little too much closed in, sort of in my own world if I'm performing for people. But hopefully if it's working, what I'm doing is sort of pulling them into that, drawing them into my backyard and getting sort of personal, vulnerable with people.

5) Bradley:

BRAD MEHLDAU'S INTENSITY AND COMPLETE SURRENDER TO THE MUSIC, HAS WON HIM AN ARDENT GLOBAL FOLLOWING. WE'LL HEAR WHY, AS HE OFFERS A SOLO PERFORMANCE AT THE STANLEY KAPLAN PENTHOUSE, WITH A REPETOIRE OF JAZZ STANDARDS, HANDPICKED POP GEMS, AND HIS INTROSPECTIVE ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS.

IT'S JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER. I'M ED BRADLEY.

6) Cross to applause**7) Bradley:**

BRAD MEHLDAU BEGINS HIS SET WITH THELONIOUS MONKS' "THINK OF ONE."

8) Music: Think of One 5:40**9) Music: Knives Out 7:54****10) Vox: Brad Mehldau**

"I opened up this set with "Think of One" by Thelonious Monk --// and continued with a song by Radiohead "Knife's Out." I'd like to continue with two originals I'll play in a row. They're both from an album I did a few years back called places. They're called respectively "Amsterdam" and "Paris."

11) Music: Amsterdam 4:33**12) Music: Paris 6:14****13) Bradley:**

BRAD MEHLDAU WITH HIS ORIGINAL COMPOSTION "PARIS, AND BEFORE THAT "AMSTERDAM" -- A LIVE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE TUNES THAT HE ALSO RECORDED ON HIS CD "PLACES."

14) Bradley:

IF YOU'RE ALREADY A BRAD MEHLDAU FAN, OR BECOMING ONE AS YOU HEAR THIS CONCERT, REMEMBER, YOU CAN SHARE THIS PROGRAM WITH FRIENDS, OR HEAR IT AGAIN ANYTIME. JUST CLICK TO AT J A L C DOT ORG SLASH RADIO -- AND BRING HOME THE SWING.

IT'S JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER. I'M ED BRADLEY.

15) Music :60 break w/ music

GROWING UP IN WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, BRAD MEHLDAU STUDIED CLASSICAL PIANO STARTING AT SIX YEARS OLD. BY THIRTEEN, HE DISCOVERED JAZZ AND BEGAN TO PURSUE A DIFFERENT PATH ON HIS INSTRUMENT. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, IN 1988, MEHLDAU STUDIED JAZZ AT THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND BEGAN PERFORMING WITH THE VETERAN DRUMMER JIMMY COBB, ONE OF HIS TEACHERS, LATER HE JOINED THE BAND OF RISING SAXOPHONE STAR, JOSHUA REDMAN.

SINCE 1993, MEHLDAU HAS LED HIS OWN POPULAR TRIO, BUT HE REGULARLY RETURNS TO SOLO PERFORMANCE FOR ITS ABSOLUTE FREEDOM AND STARK CHALLENGES.

16) Vox: Brad Mehldau

"That's what's exciting about playing solo piano. It opens everything up. Is my left hand going to accompany my right hand? How is it going to do that? Am I going to arpeggiate, or is it going to play more melodically against the right hand //, or am I going to switch that on it's head or just play block chords?"

"When you're playing solo it's more frightening to leave space for the audience and yourself as well to have that faith in emptiness in nothing."

19) Bradley:

FROM THE KAPLAN PENTHOUSE, BRAD MEHLDAU PLAYS MILES DAVIS' "SERPENT'S TOOTH."

21) Music: Serpent's Tooth 6:36**22) Music: From This Moment On 7:56**

BRAD MEHLDAU, SOLO PIANO, WITH COLE PORTER'S "FROM THIS MOMENT ON."

FOR HIS FINAL PIECE MEHLDAU TURNS TO A FAVORITE SOURCE -- THE SONGS OF THE LATE BRITISH FOLK SINGER NICK DRAKE. THIS IS "RIVER MAN."

Alt: FOR HIS NEXT PIECE MEHLDAU TURNS TO A FAVORITE SOURCE....

23) Music: River Man 10:04**24) Alt: Mother Nature Son****25) Bradley:**

"RIVER MAN." BRAD MEHLDAU, SOLO PIANO CONCERT FROM THE STANLEY KAPLAN PENTHOUSE.

Alt: FOR HIS ENCORE MEHLDAU PLAYS "MOTHER NATURE'S SON."

Alt: MOTHER NATURE'S SON, THE BEATLES SONG IN A SOLO PIANO RENDITION BY BRAD MEHLDAU AT THE STANLEY KAPLAN PENTHOUSE.

26) Music:

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IS PRODUCED AT MURRAY STREET BY OUR WRITER DAVID GOREN AND STEVE RATHE, WITH SIMON RENTNER.

THE RECORDINGS WERE MADE BY KATSUHIKO NAITO OF AVATAR.

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IS KATHERINE BROWN. THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR IS WYNTON MARSALIS.

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS PROGRAM, HEAR IT AGAIN. BRING HOME THE SWING AT JALC DOT ORG

I'M ED BRADLEY.