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TREVOR WATTS' MOIRE MUSIC: Moire Music

(FMRCD250-0208)

Trevor Watts - alto/soprano saxophones, Lol Coxhill - soprano saxophone, Simon Picard - tenor/soprano saxophones, Keith Beal - baritone/bass/soprano saxophones Peter Knight - violin, Steve Dunachie - violin Veryon Weston - piano, Ernest Mothle - bass guitar, Liam Genockey - drums, Nana Tsiboe - marimba/talking drum/congas

FMR are proud to present the CD release of Trevor Watts' Moiré Music!!!! Recorded live during the Arts Council Contemporary Music Network Tour in January 1985 and featuring an all star line up, this classic British jazz recording finally gets its debut on CD!!!!!

Moiré Music was formed in 1982 to play at the Camden Festival, we also played Bracknell that year. Since then we've played many festivals in Europe and received a warm and enthusiastic response everywhere, so I thank all those people who have helped to make this group a success.

The two pieces on the record were recorded during our Contemporary Music Network Tour in January 1985. 'Mr Sunshine', the more recent piece to be completed, was written for the 1984 Bracknell Festival commission. For that performance and others in Europe I added three singers and one more African percussionist. I hope one day to record and issue the full version of Mr Sunshine with this 14-piece Moiré Music group. I am pleased, though, that it is the basic 10-piece unit that is on this first album as it is they who primarily brought this music to life.

'Moiré Music II' was the first composition written for this band and was begun in 1981. From experiences in concert I realise the music appeals to a wide audience, so if you see this record give it a try. I don't like categories, so file this under any you feel appropriate.

Trevor Watts, July 1985

Kenneth Ansell

Trevor Watts has never been interested in compromising his musical vision. Nevertheless, with Moiré Music, he has created a group which can equally satisfy the head, the heart or the feet. The fact that it can appeal on so many levels is a reflection of Watts' compositions, which explore the shifting patterns that appear to result when two or more repeating motifs are set against each other out of phase. To perform them he has drawn together an unusually strong front-line of soloists comprising two violinists and four saxophonists (all the reedmen double on soprano in order to accentuate these resultant melodies) while the presence of Genockey, Tsiboe, Mothle and Weston ensures that the whole is propelled by a buoyant rhythm section.

Thus, Watts has wed the flexibility and organic strength of the jazz idiom to the rigorous drive and depth to be found, for instance, in the music of Philip Glass, bringing an energy and fire to substantial composition. It proves a refreshing and exciting formula, one recognised when Watts was awarded the 1984 Bracknell Festival commission. Moiré Music - for the head, heart and feet.







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tracklistings:

1. Mr Sunshine (Watts PRS/MCPS) 23:44 abridged version Soloists: Weston, Genockey/Tsiboe, Coxhill Recorded at University of Warwick, Coventry 21.1.85

2. Moiré Music II (Watts PRS/MCPS) 20:49 Soloists: Tsiboe, Knight, Coxhill, Weston Recorded at Strathallan Hotel, Birmingham 20.1.85

Recording: K Jackson, MEK Sound Services, Nottingham Mixing: Will Thomson, Hastings Production: Trevor Watts Design: Margaret Richards Photographs: Jak Kilby Produced for FMR: Trevor Taylor Additional Design: Ewan Rigg