



*BUCHER-TAN-COUNTRYMAN
and FMR Records release...*

EMPATHY

"Here is a trio that knows what it is about and provides direction and soulful fire consistently."

Gregory Applegate Edwards

3 years after their first Bucher-Tan-Countryman release *Acceptance~Resistance*, the trio hit the studio again in the Philippines.



Christian Bucher, drums, flew in again from Switzerland, and continued the trio collaboration that started in 2013. Last year, they released *Extremely Live in Manila* on Chap-Chap Records, a Japanese label that has many recordings of Rick with Sabu Toyozumi.

Estuary, a duo recording of Christian and Rick, received the Gold Dolphy award in 2018 from Guy Sitruk and Jazz à Paris. Bassist Simon Tan has performed with Rick since 2011, when the alto saxophonist first arrived in the Philippines, and they are on 10 CDs and LPs together.

The trio has received many strong reviews since their inception, across the globe and in many different languages.



EMPATHY is a special release for me, as we cover a lot of diverse territory, while maintaining our identity. All the music is unrehearsed, with little discussion between recordings, beyond a simple intro setting, such as suggesting Christian start something with brushes.

The first tune "Empathy" is a more evolved version of our melodic free jazz concepts, followed by a similar evolved take on fast free swing with "Temperance." "Outside the Context" also extends on our past concept of theme development in an open trio approach, which focuses on spontaneous interaction.

The fourth ballad-like tune "The Snowman", a subtle, abstract reference to the climate crisis, ventures into tone/color exploration. The next two tunes are more textural pieces, with "The Struggle for Relevance" led by arco on the bass, and "Resilience" being led by drums with bass and sax as layers over it.

The final track "Blue Inside Gray" returns to more a standard sounding groove, another spontaneous hit between bass and drums, that focuses more on blues inspired expression.

Rick Countryman