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Music GALLERY

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Artist: LAJOS DUDAS With GERD DUDEK/ALBERT
MANGELSDORFF/ATTILA ZOLLER/HOWARD JOHNSON et al

Title: 50 Years With Jazzclarinet [2 CD set]

Label: Jazzsick 5037 Country: Germany

Format: CD Status: AVAILABLE \$24.00

Description: Lajos Dudas on clarinets & alto sax; other players include Albert Mangelsdorff on trombone, Attila Zoller on guitar, Gerd Dudek & Christoph Lauer on tenor saxes, Tom Van Der Geld & Karl Berger on vibes, Ali Haurand & Gunter Lenz on basses and Howard Johnson on bass sax. I am always amazed when a great musician like Lajos Dudas comes to my attention for the first time and I realize that I've been missing out on his large back-catalogue of gems. I pre-ordered copies of this double disc recently based on the personnel and was blown away by a majority of the material here. It turns out that Hungarian clarinetist Lajos Dudas's career stretches back more than fifty years. Mr. Dudas has recorded for labels like Konnex, Detour, Ear-Rational, Double Moon and Pannon Jazz.

This disc collects pieces from these and other labels, from 1978 until today. Just about every piece comes from a different source and features different personnel. The first song was recorded in 1980 and it features a fine quartet with Dudas on clarinet, Tom van der Geld (early ECMer) on vibes, Ali Haurand on bass and Kurt Billker on drums. The entire quartet smokes, especially the bass of Mr. Haurand, whom I recall from his work with Alan Skidmore and the great vibes solo by Van der Geld. "Rumpelstiltzchen" was written by & features the superb jazz guitar of Attila Zoller, another under-recognized European master who lived in the US for many years. Mr. Dudas is an excellent clarinetist who is comfortable in a variety of styles. Whether playing in small groups or with large ones like the HR Jazz Ensemble, his solos are consistently inspired, the arrangements always intriguing. There are number of lesser-known players featured here like Tommy Vig (vibes) or Sebastian Buchholz (alto sax) who get a chance to shine. Outside of a couple of mellower pieces at the beginning of the

second disc, both of these discs feature enough great material to make many of us open-minded collectors happy. - Bruce Lee Gallanter, Downtown Music Gallery