

by Francis Couvreur, Etudes Tziganes

Following the excellent "Franco-American Swing" released in 2003, here is the new CD from the quintet of John Jorgenson, respected session musician with a resume as long as your arm, who is also one of the best representatives of Swing Manouche in America. This guitarist who displays faultless technique and very beautiful phrasing combining swing, finesse and elegance (check out his chorus on Shingapore), is also a remarkable clarinetist, a composer both inspired and ambitious, an arranger and a producer, in short, a serious customer! He wrote 10 of the 12 titles, and the compositions shine, with splendid melodies (like El Camino del Che, Ultraspontane and its long, Spanish-flavored solo guitar introduction) and chiseled arrangements, some of which are reproduced on the excellent DVD recorded in 2005. Stephan Dudash on 5 string viola, Charlie Chadwick on double bass and Cesare Valbusa on percussion are again present; Gonzalo Bergara is on rhythm guitar (originally from Buenos Aires, he also has his own gypsy trio in Los Angeles) and Bryan Owings or Dick Hardwick add percussion on various tracks. In addition, some guests: The Nashville Chamber Orchestra String Quintet, already present on the preceding CD, brings a true note of originality (note the remarkable versions of Django's Improvisation 1 and 2, which would undoubtedly not have displeased the famous Manouche who adored classical music). At the age of 83, Beryl Davis appears to sing Don't Worry 'Bout Me, a song that she recorded as a teenager on August 25, 1939 with the Quintet of the Hot Club of France! Respect! John Jorgenson is a true musician who does not copy anybody, but leaves his mark with a highly distinctive esthetic. Everything is in good order here, with no throw-away tracks; a completely successful disc combining originality and musical intelligence that deserves to be distributed in France! Bravo!