



**WINGSPAN**  
**THE MICHAEL TRACY QUARTET**  
**FEATURING DAVIDE LOGIRI**  
Sea Breeze Jazz SBJ-3092

What do Louisville, Kentucky and Milan, Italy have in common? Plenty. It's all about the universal language called jazz. When veteran artists get together to improvise over themes that they've mastered, good things happen. As head of the Jazz Studies program for the University of Louisville, saxophonist Michael Tracy invited Italian pianist Davide Logiri to join his quartet in a spirited ride through familiar territory. Along with guitarist Craig Wagner, double bassist Doug Elmore and drummer Terry O'Mahoney, they allow their magic to work wonders.

**Wingspan** begins with Michael playing soprano on the pianist's song "**Kitchen in a Mess**," where they turn up the heat with modern mainstream power and catch the spontaneity of their art. Davide gives the piano's keyboard a good working out in celebration of what he and Michael have studied from two different continents through the years. Craig's "**Cloning**" follows with a mellow tenor approach that hangs with guitar in a rhythmic variation of "**There Will Never Be Another You**," where all four melodic instruments step forward in turn with intuitive lines that match. "**Samba for Tracy**" turns to classical guitar with Michael's tenor in a festive affair. Again, Davide provides a lyrical reading that comes armed with a percussive journey on the piano's keyboard. The standard ballad "**Old Folks**," one of several selections on the program that recall the best years of Miles Davis, emphasizes tone and melody over other essential fundamentals, giving the ensemble its pleasure. An aural landscape for sure, this one reminds one of the universal nature of jazz. Michael's "**Like Tyner**," written in the unique harmonic style of pianist McCoy Tyner, stands out for its merciless intensity. Davide carries the intricate form toward its muscular backdrop and Michael's tenor sweeps legato with a balance that works miracles.

"**Wingspan**" features a tight guitar and soprano unison to introduce its quirky waltz time where fluid soloing from each turns passionate. Clarion articulation from both and from piano gives the piece a feeling of majesty. "**Emanuela's Trouble**" places Michael's tenor in a sweet Latin jazz scenario where melody fits comfortably with a crisp bass, piano, and drums rhythmic foundation. Here, Davide stretches out with a heated exchange that emphasizes the clear sound that this ensemble wears so well. Craig's "**The Only Peace I Know**" showcases Michael's melodic soprano with a lush impression where pitch wins out over form. The ensemble's interpretation contains considerable freedom, allowing room for the guitarist's spontaneity along the way. The music of Miles Davis brings people together, and "**Freddie Freeloader**" places Michael's tenor in the lead as piano, saxophone and bass share the opportunity to improvise over a familiar and well-liked theme. It's a natural jazz scene where the artists' musical backgrounds fit together seamlessly. Davide's "**Anatheme**" closes the session with a reworking of Miles Davis' "**The Theme**," where one false ending after another keeps everyone on the edge of their seats for the duration and spirits soar.

This recording is now available on CD (SBJ-3092). Bar code is - 0-17231-30922-2

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