



SAMUEL BLASER SPRING RAIN

1. CRY WANT CHB771400001
2. MISSING MARK SUETTERLYN CHB771400002
3. TEMPORARILY CHB771400003
4. HOMAGE CHB771400004
5. UMBRA CHB771400005
6. THE FIRST SNOW CHB771400006
7. SCOOTIN' ABOUT CHB771400007
8. TRUDGIN' CHB771400008
9. SPRING RAIN CHB771400009
10. TRIPPIN' CHB771400010
11. COUNTERPARTS CHB771400011
12. JESUS MARIA CHB771400012
13. TRUDGIN' (BONUS TRACK) CHB771400013

*BONUS TRACK FOR DIGITAL ALBUMS ONLY.

PERSONNEL | ALBUM CREDITS

Samuel Blaser - trombone
Ross Lossing - (piano, Fender rhodes, wurlitzer, minimoog)
Drew Gress - double bass
Gerald Cleaver - drums

Tracks 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 recorded Jan 3-4 2014 at Walter Music, Hoboken, New Jersey by Dave Darlington.

Tracks 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 recorded Dec. 19, 2015 at Teldex Studio, Berlin, Germany by Tobias Lehmann.

Mixed and mastered by Dave Darlington, New York
Artistic Director - Robert Sadin
Producer - Samuel Blaser
Executive Producer - Michael Janisch

Swiss trombonist **Samuel Blaser** makes his Whirlwind debut with his new quartet album *Spring Rain*, a tribute to US clarinetist and composer Jimmy Giuffre. Intentionally blurring the boundaries between jazz, blues, free improvisation and contemporary classical, along with an ear for strong melody, Blaser is a musician who seeks to widen the musical scope of his instrument while retaining its tonal identity. His own playing is rooted in classical training and with beginnings in blues and swing he gained a scholarship to study in the United States. His early penchant for breaking free of constraints has resulted in a number of successful collaborations, most notably with his established, trusted quartet of **Russ Lossing** (piano/keyboards), **Drew Gress** (bass) and **Gerald Cleaver** (drums).



Following an already impressive back-catalog - most recently his informed interpretation of works by medieval composer Guillaume de Machaut (*Consort in Motion: A Mirror to Machaut*, 2013) - on *Spring Rain* Blaser takes the melodic focus and considerable but perhaps lesser-known output of Jimmy Giuffre (1921-2008) to inspire new compositions and interpretations which bristle with spontaneity and invention. Possessing a lyrical tone as well as a mastery of multiphonics (often achieving extraordinary, gritty results with these carefully-crafted embouchured/sung clusters), Blaser duels with the myriad keyboard colors of Lossing (including Wurlitzer, Fender Rhodes and Minimoog), driven by intuitive, intelligent bass and drums.

Artistically directed by the renowned **Robert Sadin** (Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Sting), Blaser's latest expression as a leader revels in the possibility of free improvisation which emanates as much from the influence of Stravinsky and Morton Feldman as it does high-grooving swing and blues. The diversity of the album is exemplified by the unpredictable, increasing tumult of "Missing Mark Suetterlyn", the breezy almost Ellingtonian swing of "Temporarily", the dark Bartokian spaciality of "Umbra" and then riotous, improv-fusion-spirited "The First Snow".

Blaser thrives on continually developing and communicating new expressions in improvisation, keen for audiences to discover and appreciate the trombone in other forms. *Spring Rain* clearly displays that intent with an immersive soundworld which rewards with deeper understanding. He explains: "With this album I would like to show that the trombone can be melodic and have various forms of expression, and that I am not just interested in free jazz - you can't categorize my music in one space. I want people to know that there is jazz, blues, classical music, beautiful melodies and no boundaries."

Whirlwind Recordings
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