

American Record Guide

Independent critics reviewing classical recordings



SOMSEN: *Clarinet Trios*

Gabrielle Mirabassi, cl; Jasper Somsen, db;
Enrico Pieranunzi, p

Challenge 3569—44 minutes

Jasper Somsen (b. 1973) is a Dutch double bassist, composer, and producer who trav-

els freely between classical, jazz, pop, film, and musical theater. Here he enlists Italian jazz clarinetist Gabrielle Mirabassi (b. 1967) and Italian jazz pianist Enrico Pieranunzi (b. 1949) to assemble a collection of his clarinet trio miniatures that the liner notes say celebrate the courage of the spontaneous wanderer. Some of the titles are 'The Road Less Traveled', 'A New Dawn', 'Still Waters Run Deep', 'Leap of Faith', 'Resonance From the Past' and 'Free Spirit'.

The music is affable coffeehouse jazz rendered here with clear timbres, dexterous technique, appropriate style, and a conservative range of dynamics. Somsen stays mostly in the background, laying down the beat and the changes, while Mirabassi and Pieranunzi take turns with the melody and improvisation. This is a nice album for a car ride or a quiet evening at home.

HANUDEL