

JASPER SOMSEN *The Road Less Traveled. Twin Flames. A New Dawn. Jigsaw. Still Waters Run Deep. Crossroads. Leap of Faith. Resonance from the Past. Free Spirit.* **SOMSEN/PIERANUZI/MIRABASSI** *Traveller's Tale. Mysterious Ways* • Jasper Somsen (db); Gabriele Mirabassi (cl); Enrico Pieranunzi (pn) • CHALLENGE 73569 (CD: 43:43)

Traveller's Ways presents 11 selections by the jazz trio of Jasper Somsen (double bass), Enrico Pieranunzi (piano), and Gabriele Mirabassi (clarinet). With the exception of two numbers composed by the trio (*Traveller's Tale, Mysterious Ways*), the pieces are by Somsen. The liner notes relate: "All the eleven works deal with travel, but often with the mental side of it, the mindset." Somsen's website (jaspersomsen.com) describes the music on *Traveller's Ways* as "a crossover between Jazz, Classical and (some) pop music, in which compositions and improvisations blend into one perfect amalgam." To my ears, jazz, of the relaxed and smooth variety, is the predominant element. All of the pieces are lyrical, gratifyingly accessible, and beautifully played. Composer/bassist Somsen graciously serves as the foundation for improvisatory flights by Pieranunzi and Mirabassi, both of whom play with the utmost facility and style. Somsen, Pieranunzi, and Mirabassi are a taut and seamless combo, musicians that clearly relish their collaboration. The recorded sound, warm and intimate, is most attractive. This is a lovely disc. **Ken Meltzer**

This article originally appeared in Issue 48:2 (Nov/Dec 2024) of *Fanfare Magazine*.