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Mingus und sein Bass —

There are only two geniuses of the bass; Oscar Pettiford and Charlie Mingus. (Dizzy Gillespie)

»Oscar is gone, but Mingus is still with us and even though he seems better known today as a composer and innovator than as a bass soloist, the truth of what Gillespie says is evident in every album Mingus makes.«

»The bass is hard, for even the virtuoso players, to make into a solo instrument. Audiences resist it. But not when Mingus plays it. And of course when Mingus does solo, he makes the whole thing look so easy and simple that it's frightening.«

»Today, even though he is the bass soloist supreme, he is acquiring more stature every year (whether or not he seeks it) as a composer and serious musician (because jazz is, as Ellington among others has insisted, a serious music).«

»The American society into which jazz was born has made it almost impossible for the serious jazz musician to be taken seriously for his music. Stereotype and misconceptions have made Duke Ellington a strangely perverse and hidden genius, with dozens of skins to shed before he stands out real, except in his music. Prejudice, musical and otherwise, have done the same sort of thing to Monk with a different, but none the less deepset effect. Of the three – Duke, Monk and Mingus who comprise jazz' major line of composition – only Mingus has struck back verbally and musically in a tough-minded musical rebuttal. Curiously for such a compassionate man, Mingus' music can be light and airy and filled with wit. At times it can be downright comic in intent and execution; at other times, hard to tell whether to love or cry. But never, in any single thing he has ever done, has Mingus been dull. You may like his music or you may not like it. But you cannot ignore it, anymore than you can ignore him. It throbs with artistic honesty, with musical imagination and is laced with surprise.«

»Music is its own explanation, its own argument, its own statement. All the written word can do is urge you to listen. The rest is up to you.«

[Ralph J. Gleason: Liner Notes "*The Charlie Mingus Quintet plus Max Roach*" — Recorded at Cafe Bohemia, New York, December 23, 1955 — Fantasy Records / OJC-440 (F-6009) / Remastered 1990]

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Lesen / Hören / Schauen

Samuel Beckett: Residua (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp Verlag, 1970).

Duke Ellington / Charlie Mingus / Max Roach: Money Jungle (Blue Note / Capitol, 1987).

ARD — Fußball Europameisterschaft.

ONE — Guglielmo Morandi: Goldraub in London (Italien, 1968).

Fortsetzung folgt ...

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