

Recensione del CD **“Jazz City”** da Double Bassist -Autumn 2003
MM Records MM 43029

“Jazz City” – Open Frontiers Trio
with
Raimondo Meli Lupi, guitar
Gianmarco Scaglia, double bass
Sandro Ravasini, drums.

Investigative and ultimately expanding the jazz language is what the Open Frontiers Trio are here for, as well as to plumb the depths of guitar trio dynamics initially excavated by masters such as Jim Hall, Joe Diorio, Lenny Breu and Mick Goodrick. This swinging and spirited release is the result of their digging, and their sweat and determination has paid off.

The album offers a number of standards, from a chilling version of Mile Davis’ *Nardis* and a deliciously stretched-out *My Funny Valentine*, to originals penned by bassist Gianmarco Scaglia that range from heavy swing to the title track’s bebop/free-jazz hybrid.

The band’s sound is so well balanced and the instruments so clearly represented that it sounds as though you are in the recording studio with them. Guitarist Raimondo Meli Lupi demonstrates an acute understanding of the subtleties and nuances that are possible within the intimate ambience of a trio session. Not only is he a sensitive and emotive player, he is also a gracious provider of space, allowing Scaglia’s thick bass sound to flood in from the background.

Scaglia’s fully developed compositions range from the gritty and bluesy, to the aerial and Feather-light, and sometimes both at once. Listen to *L’altra Faccia della Luna* for a sampling of his “ghost blues” tendencies as a composer.

In furthering the ever-expanding harmonic textures of jazz within its traditional framework, *Jazz City* reassures listeners that there are great players around to make sure jazz stays jazz, But will never become boring.

JK

