



**“A REMARKABLE THOROUGHNESS”**

**NEW RELEASE, September 2008**

Claude Marc Bourget  
**Second Time, Improvisations cycle / Piano solo**  
 Ruby Flower Records & Quebec Improvised Musics Society  
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Produced by Claude Marc Bourget  
 Recorded September 2007,  
 François-Bernier Concert Hall  
 Domaine Forget, Saint-Irénée,  
 Canada.  
 Claude Marc Bourget playing on a Steinway  
 Concert Grand Piano Model D (Hamburg).

Canadian pianist Claude Marc Bourget stopped his amazing musical career in the middle of the 1980's to turn into a brilliant writer who has already published several books. At 50 years young he has returned to the euphonic highlights with an album of extraordinary maturity, brilliance and lyricism, crossing jazz and classical soundscapes, which in turn appear both impressionist and contemporary. Improviser Bourget has not lost touch with his talent but instead has grown and gained in reflection rather than embracing conformity, repetition, or freezing formulas sometimes present in the musical world. One must follow his long phrases, his always subtle rhythms, his moments of blues, and freedom in the themes and contrasts.

Claude Marc Bourget's playing is intense, especially in the silences, clearly influenced by Paul Bley, Keith Jarrett and Glen Gould. For Bourget, solo improvisation is an art in itself; his choice of art, a way to bring us to the end of a road in a subtle manner and with the assurance of a master.

The high quality of this recording is remarkable. Claude Marc Bourget, indeed has chosen to celebrate his return in the magnificent concert hall of Domain Forget in Charlevoix (Canada), playing a Hamburg Steinway, sustaining each note with velvet hands. There are no effects of the studio here and no technical artifice. It's the piano, the pianist and the natural echo of the hall François Bernier, installed on the awesome St. Lawrence River ... to discover.

*Susie Jeanne Pineault*

*Second Time, in which Claude Marc Bourget is at its best, cannot leave the music lover or the piano aficionado indifferent, if he holds in his heart the musical act in its purest form, although also being audacious.*

**About Second Time from Claude Marc Bourget**

Pianist Claude Marc Bourget decided to come back to the spotlight with a magical release where improvisation and avant-garde jazz smoothly immixes into a surely mellifluous set played with his audacious musical spirit.

The album strikes up this creation with a delightful "Opening". Delineating poignant melodies, Bourget engrafs an explicit perimeter into the grand programme via his phrasing and clamouring tones. Withal, Bourget deploys here a great deal of energy throughout these generally thrilling journeys. On "Second Time"

he furnishes a contemporary styled pace, mixing it all up with classical connotations. In addition, Claude-Marc Bourget fuses rhythmic, but also long silent spaces with picturesque melodies during many of these tracks. Au fond, Bourget merrily clasps the extraneous realm of concerns with visceral crescendos.

*"Bourget's music is very introspective. His piano playing can be fast paced and intense, or very lyrical and melodic. Either way, you'll find that it can really soothe your soul."*  
 (Jazzfrisson)

The Canadian pianist eventually boosts his freedom of movement with classical soundscapes, often pointed with ample improvisational moments. This album transmits a reckless outlook, sporadically toned down with ambient interludes. Overall, Bourget's Second Time is a brave, yet remarkably lucid production translating into a highly approachable jazz album. For a second time, after many years of being out of the spotlight of music, Bourget has succeeded in what is not always easily attainable!

*Ana Isabel Ordenez, Ruby Flower Records*