

## Jazz

## Todd Cochran – Todd



fonè fonè LP 004

The River Bends is a firework for the senses: Latin rhythms, samba, percussion solos – it sounds like jungle, all sorts of feathered friends, like dance and pure vitality. “Pure” is a good keyword: Outstanding the two solo tracks where Cochran smashes the keys in the style of Keith Jarrett. A New And Old Poem is the most lyrical jazz, with wide stretched and a wonderful theme. Then, again, it is rhythmically pointed, very energetic, with an ostinato motive in the left hand, whilst the right indulges in all kind of trills and other bric-à-brac. The echo effect due to remaining pedalling creates additional space – and blurs the reality, blurs the boundaries. “I love to invite my friends”: This is a popular motto in jazz music, and according to this, we listeners have been able to enjoy some absolutely fantastic formations in the past. And true to this motto, the pianist Todd Cochran (here also appearing as a singer) is acting, too; and we meet famous artists like James Leary on the bass and Munyungo Jackson (percussion). Technical finesses as offset, parallel movement of bass and piano or unexpected tempo changes are just possible with such an excellent band!

Apropos sound: The recordings from David Manley with transistor-free equipment have been mastered and cut by Giulio Cesare Ricci. As always, the vinyl – once again a quartet of single sided 45rpm’s – has been limited to 496 copies. The records come indeed close to an original sound; above all, there has not been created, as unfortunately often, a pseudo-liveness. If you love the straight nature of bebop, appreciate the intimacy of bar jazz, and love records with a fantastic sound – what are you waiting for? “Todd” has been the first new jazz production on vinyl since long that fascinated me from the beginning to the end. Brilliant!