

**MUHAL RICHARD ABRAMS
& MARTY EHRLICH
The Open Air Meeting**

New World Records 80512

Open Air. Under the Sun. Waiting to perform the concert you hear on this disk, outdoors on an August afternoon, fortuitous with pleasant weather, I thought back to playing music outside in St. Louis, circa 1970. Weather permitting, we'd meet in the park. Might be three saxes, two drummers, and a poet. Filling the space with sound, under the sun. Music growing unabashed and seemingly unbound. At that time a great door opened for me.

There are those who talk of music as a text to be learned, where meaning is found through the mastery of the language of the text. Other's say that the text can always be created anew, the language open to individual and singular constructs. It's my belief that the power of music multiplies when those two beliefs combine and combust. For many years, whether as a listener or as a collaborator, Muhal has been a guide to that combustion. I like to joke that Muhal has forgotten more about music than most of us will manage to learn. In talking, rehearsing, and performing with him, I've seen his passion for that learning. But coexisting alongside that passion, perhaps within it, is the attraction of implications. A road that moves in opposite directions only to become a circle. When you can see far enough. These sounds carry many meanings, now carry them where you hear them going. Open Air. Under the Sun.
—Marty Ehrlich, December 5, 1996

Muhal Richard Abrams. Pianist, composer, co-founder of The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), founder of The AACM School of Music, President of The AACM, New York City Chapter, and the first recipient of the grand international jazz award, The JazzPar Prize, which was awarded by the Danish Jazz Center, Copenhagen, April, 1990. Except for a brief period of study at Chicago Musical College and Governors State University in Chicago, where he studied electronic music, Mr. Abrams is predominately a self-taught musician. Some recent compositions by Mr. Abrams include *Transversion I OP. 6* performed by The Detroit Symphony Orchestra; *What A Man*, commissioned by the Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago and the Friends of the Chicago Public Library in honor of the late Mayor Harold Washington; *The String Quartet III*, commissioned by Bang On The Can and performed by The Cassatt String Quartet; *Strings and Things*, commissioned by The String Trio of New York; *Saxophone Quartet 1*, commissioned by The Rova Saxophone Quartet; and *New Horizons*, commissioned by Newband.

Marty Ehrlich was raised in St. Louis. He graduated from The New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Jaki Byard, George Russell, Gunther Schuller, and Joseph Allard. Since coming to New York in 1978, Ehrlich has performed with Anthony Braxton, Roscoe Mitchell, Julius Hemphill, George Russell, Leo Smith, and John Zorn, among many others. As a composer, Ehrlich has been commissioned by the New York Composer's Orchestra, the Boston Jazz Composer's Alliance, the New York String Trio, the Lydian String Quartet and pianist Ursula Oppens. Ehrlich has received commissioning grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Meet The Composer. He has recorded for New World, Enja, and Muse.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Muhai Richard Abrams:

Afrisong. Why Not Records 32ED5019.
Blues Forever. Black Saint Records BSR 0061 CD.
Colors In Thirty-Third. Black Saint Records BSR 0091.
Duets. Featuring Amina Claudine Myers. Black Saint Records BSR 0051.
Levels And Degrees Of Light. Delmark Records DS-413.
Lifea Blinac. Arista Novus AN 3000.
Mama And Daddy. Black Saint Records BSR 0041.
1+OQA=19. Black Saint Records BSR 0017.
One Line, Two Views. New World Records 80469-2.
Rejoicing With The Light. Black Saint Records BSR 0071.
Roots Of Blue. Featuring Cecil McBee. RPR Records RPR 1001.
Sight Song. Black Saint Records BSR 0003.
Spilumonesty. Black Saint Records BSR 0032.
Spiral. Arista Novus AN 3007.
Things To Come From Those Now Gone. Delmark Records DS-430.
UMO Plays The Music Of Muhai Richard Abrams. UMO Record Co. UMO CD 101.
View From Within. Black Saint Records BSR 0081.
Young At Heart Wise In Time. Delmark Records DS-423.

Marty Ehrlich:

Can You Hear A Motion. Marty Ehrlich. Enja 8052.
Emergency Peace. Marty Ehrlich and The Dark Woods Ensemble. New World Records 80409-2.
Falling Man. Marty Ehrlich and Anthony Cox. Muse 5398.
Just Before the Dawn. Marty Ehrlich's Dark Woods Ensemble. New World Records 80474-2.
New York Child. Marty Ehrlich. Enja 9025.
The New York Composers Orchestra. New World Records 80397-2.
Pliant Plaint. Marty Ehrlich. Enja 5065.
Side By Side. Marty Ehrlich. Enja 6092.
The Traveller's Tale. Marty Ehrlich. Enja 6024.

Producers: Muhai Richard Abrams and Marty Ehrlich

Live recording engineer: Douglas E. Dahl

Digital mastering: Paul Zinman, SoundByte Productions, Inc., NYC

Recorded live as part of the concert series "Summer Jazz at The Brooklyn Museum: Double Exposure," August 11, 1996.

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Marty Ehrlich uses Vandoren reeds and products.

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THE OPEN AIR MEETING

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- 1 *Marching With Honor* (Muhall Richard Abrams) (10:55)
(publ. Ric-Peg Publishing Co., BMI)
- 2 *Dark Sestina* (Marty Ehrlich) (8:31)
(publ. Dark Sounds Music, BMI)
- 3 *Crossbeams* (Muhall Richard Abrams) (7:34)
(publ. Ric-Peg Publishing Co., BMI)
- 4 *The Price of the Ticket* (Marty Ehrlich) (13:54)
(publ. Dark Sounds Music, BMI)
- 5 *Bright Canto* (Marty Ehrlich) (12:04)
(publ. Dark Sounds Music, BMI)
- 6 *Blues to You* (Muhall Richard Abrams/Marty Ehrlich) (4:55)
(publ. Ric-Peg Publishing Co., BMI/Dark Sounds Music, BMI)

Muhall Richard Abrams, piano Marty Ehrlich, alto saxophone, clarinet

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