

Reviews for Amazon River



Chris May - *All About Jazz*

"When the great wordsmith in the sky invented the word "gorgeous" She might have been thinking of this album, a celebration of all that is lovely about Brazilian music, from samba and choro through bossa nova and jazz...49 minutes rarely pass so quickly--but you can always hit the repeat button. I've been doing that all afternoon. "

Dick Metcafe - *Jazz Improv*

" I've only heard a few jazz CD's that featured harmonica before... this one is a favorite after only 3 spins... Mr. Meurkens plays with real energy & I think the harmonica adds a somehow "familiar" touch that makes it easy for him to draw the listener into his fold...listeners who want to hear jazz with a different twist will fall in love with this CD immediately - I give it a **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**"

Richard Bourcier - *jazzreview.com:*

"...Fans of Brazilian jazz will love this record..."

Ken Dryden - *All Music Guide:*

"...already a virtuoso on harmonica (and the first serious rival to Toots Thielemans on the instrument), he is in terrific form throughout this session...it is a delightful date from start to finish."

Jim Santella - *All About Jazz:*

"With a session of originals and established Brazilian songs, Hendrik Meurkens pays homage to the music that moves him. His guests play a large part in helping the harmonica virtuoso create a recommended album that accurately describes those feelings. He soars high and low, swooping effortlessly around melodic fragments that belie the rustic impression of a land where no one has to hurry to get things done. Simple, yet filled with exotic undercurrents, the music fills a need that we all share.

Uptempo sambas and laid-back bossa novas provide fuel for Meurkens' fire. He interprets Jobim's "Passarim" passionately with an emphasis on linear melodic lines that move gracefully up and down. Like the slow-moving river of Brazil and its lush green landscapes, he surrounds the motion of his

harmonica with acoustic jazz timbres and gently rolling rhythms. Pianist Helio Alves covers each melody with swank harmonic convergence, while bassist Nilson Matta adds a foundation that's more felt than heard. Together with drummer Duduka da Fonseca, they lift Meurkens' melodies on this festive affair.

Oscar Castro-Neves and Dori Caymmi provide heartfelt vocals to match the leader's interpretations. Another significant force on their quest for homage is the clarinet of Paquito D'Rivera, who captures an authentic folk atmosphere on several tracks. Together, they've captured the eclectic romance of Brazilian music. Playing both harmonica and vibraphone on "Ela é Carioca," Meurkens expresses his sincere appreciation for the mood that Amazon River connotes. It's a relaxed setting with hearty mainstream jazz built right in."