

The music on this record was composed in spring 2006 as a tribute to the late Don Cherry, who would have been 70 that year. It was first performed July 8th during Copenhagen Jazz Festival 2006 in Salon K, Huset, as a concert under the composers union ToneArt and again the next day July 9th in Literaturhaus as a concert under the composers union Kanten. The present music was recorded at Denmarks Radio may 2nd and 3rd 2007 and broadcasted November 2007.

When Don Cherry visited the Copenhagen jazz club Montmartre in 1963 as a member of The New York Contemporary Five I was at that time a member of The Contemporary Jazz Quartet/Quintet, the first band in Denmark to play all of Ornette Coleman's compositions. Don Cherry and I, therefore, shared musical background, and very soon we became friends and worked together on several occasions.

When the composers union Kanten decided to honour Don Cherry in a series of concerts during Copenhagen Jazz Festival 2006, I was invited to participate.

This was at the same time a kind of "40 years anniversary" for the sextet on this CD, which issued its first recording "Nu" (Now) in 1966 with the same line-up except for the late drummer Bo Thrige Andersen and bass player Steffen Andersen, who is now devoting his time to playing baroque music.

Don Cherry was born in Oklahoma City, November 18, 1936. His parents ran The Cherry Blossom nightclub, where Don had his first musical experiences. Hence the title of the first suite: "The Cherry Blossom".

When T.C.J.Q. in 1964 developed its own very personal free-form style, entirely based on intense listening and intuition, I told Don Cherry that we had now taken the full step towards totally free music and completely dropped melody, harmony and a steady rhythm. He got pretty shocked and exclaimed: "I would never drop melody", after which he stressed to me, that it was very important to "take care of business". Hence the title of the second suite "Take Care Of Business".

I was a big fan and friend of Don Cherry, and I hope with this record to express my deep admiration for him and his music.

Hugh Steinmetz