



July 2003

# Manuel Rocheman

## ALONE AT LAST

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Manuel Rocheman was seething with impatience to go solo... the outcome has exceeded all expectations.

Manuel Rocheman, chiselling away like a master craftsman at a work he has long thought through, takes us off for a wonderful exploration. An adventure that calls for superior deftness and to which Manuel Rocheman rises; brilliant, demanding and masterful.

Both restrained and lyrical at the same time, he rolls out an exciting array of his inner landscapes. Romantic corals, multicoloured fish, breathtaking sea beds and rare pearls slip bewitchingly by.

As the notes are played, be it a Fats Waller theme, a Bossa Nova or a composition, Manuel Rocheman enhances the standards, creates another world, and springs surprises without letting up the pressure. The acceleration on *Donna Lee* almost steals your breath away... the pianist's virtuosity serving up a constant wealth of improvisation to captivate the listener.

From harmonic inventions to flashes of ingenuity on the melodies, Manuel Rocheman taps in to the genius of some of the big names. Irradiating his playing is the inspiration of Phinéas Newborn, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett and Michel Petrucciani.

But make no mistake about it, this is the immediately identifiable, personal sound of a major pianist at the height of his art.

*"Alone at last"* is a bedside disc... as was Bill Evan's *"Alone"* in 1968. An inexhaustible musical mine. Listen to it ever more deeply. Time and again it will produce a swaying motion deep inside that is sheer delight.

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