

CHARLIE MARIANO & DIETER ILG  
SAX with a BASS

Many years before the term *world music* was coined, **Charlie Mariano** travelled the world in his search of sounds, transcending his Boston born background in Jazz, spending years playing in Japan (with pianist and wife Toshiko Akiyoshi) then in India (Karnataka College of Percussion). Today the 83 year old sax player known for his work with Jazz giants from Quincy Jones, Stan Kenton to Charles Mingus (hear him on *The Black Saint And The Sinner Lady*) as well as Astrud Gilberto resides in cologne, Germany. “Mariano’s whole career has been an object lesson in gradual artistic growth. Like Miles Davis, he has at every stage played contemporary music, always remaining open to new ideas. Mariano shows a great emotional range, his solos are often quite extraordinary, his soprano and alto sounds projecting a powerful, almost anguished lyricism, as if the music were being wrung out of him. There are few parallels in Jazz to the voluptuous austerity of Mariano’s later work.” Jazz Rough Guide

His partner of choice in this duo, is the very refined German bassist Dieter Ilg. Though to this day few outside of the European Jazz scene have heard him, his playing is as impressive for content as for the quality of his double bass sound. Being a connoisseur of good foods and wines (he runs a *JazzCooks* magazine column) as much as of music, he is often cited as being the master of the understatement, pulling intricately woven strings in the background, and knowing exactly when a pinch of spice must be added to which dish and when. His subtlety and depth in the bass role have earned him an excellent reputation as a side-man, his recordings of German Folksongs with Austrian guitarist W. Muthspiel created quite a stir some years ago and must be called a brilliant rendition of well known material.

The concert with this duo gives the audience a beautifully classy, and near classic experience of Jazz, cool and refined, intelligent music; entertainment as enlightenment.