

Gunther Tiedemann **cello** Thomas Rückert **piano**

# Con Alma

Music for Cello and Piano

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**South America – a world full of colors, rhythms, and endless melodies.** On this CD, Gunther Tiedemann and Thomas Rückert devote themselves to some of their favorite pieces – played, varied, improvised, and continually brought to life anew. The duo loves this music because it unites **gentleness and softness** with great **rhythmic power**. From this tension emerge unique soundscapes in which the melodies are allowed to unfold – at times fragile, at times energetic, sometimes meditative, sometimes ecstatic. Their passion for South American music is one they share with many musicians throughout jazz history. For their program “Con Alma” (“With Soul”), they have chosen not only works by South American composers but also pieces by Chick Corea, Dizzy Gillespie, and others who, like them, connect this musical world with jazz.

Gunther Tiedemann and Thomas Rückert play – **thoughtfully bold** – their music between free, spontaneous improvisations and compositions. They are deeply rooted in the jazz tradition, yet at the same time cast a keen eye on both traditional and contemporary music from their own world and beyond.

**Thomas Rückert** grew up in a musical family and began piano lessons at the age of seven. After studying with **Rainer Brüninghaus** and **John Taylor** at the **Cologne University of Music and Dance** (Konzertexamen), he spent 1999 living as a freelance musician in **New York City**, an experience that profoundly shaped his musical path. Rückert has released several albums with his trio (*Pirouet, Doublemoon, Riverside Records*) and has performed at renowned festivals such as the **North Sea Jazz Festival**, the **Istanbul Jazz Festival**, and the **Leverkusener Jazztage**. A special artistic connection linked him to **Lee Konitz**. In addition, he has collaborated with **Randy Brecker, Mark Johnson, Greg Hutchinson, Donny McCaslin, Greetje Kauffeld, Mark Murphy, Kevin Mahogany, Tony Lakatos, Adam Nussbaum, Ack van Rooyen, Jay Anderson, John Goldsby, Marilyn Mazur, Eric Truffaz, Jacob Collier**, the **WDR Big Band**, his trio partners **Reza Askari, Thomas Morgan, Fabian Arends**, and his brother **Jochen Rückert**. He teaches at the **Folkwang University of the Arts** in Essen and at the **University of Wuppertal**, and lives with his children in the **Rhein-Sieg district**.

**Gunther Tiedemann** studied at the **Cologne University of Music and Dance** with **Prof. Ingrid Frohmüller-Seidel** and took masterclasses with **Prof. George Neikrug** (Boston) and **Prof. Siegfried Palm**. His concert tours and workshops have taken him across **Europe, the USA, Brazil, West Africa, and Pakistan**, with performances at festivals such as the *Rio Cello Festival* (Rio de Janeiro), the *New Directions Cello Festivals* (Ithaca, Cologne, Boston, Northampton/MA), the *Cello Akademie Rutesheim*, the *WDR Musikfest*, and the *MDR Musiksommer*. He has performed with artists including **Markus Stockhausen, Ernst Reijseger, Roger Hanschel, Stephan Braun, José Feliciano, Nelly Furtado, Voces8, Jenaer Philharmonie** and the **Rio Cello Ensemble**. Tiedemann appears in various ensembles, performing in duos with **Yaniel Matos, David Plate, Thomas Rückert, Ulrike Tiedemann**, and **Michael Villmow**, and is a member of **String Thing** and **Arcopia**. He also leads several string projects, including the **Cologne String Big Band**, the **Cello-Orchester Baden-Württemberg**, and **Celloversum Köln**. He teaches at the **Cologne University of Music and Dance**, focusing on **jazz cello, string big band** and **ensemble coaching**.



- 1 Con Alma | Dizzy Gillespie
- 2 How Insensitive | Antônio Carlos Jobim
- 3 Armando's Rhumba | Chick Corea
- 4 Black Orpheus | Luiz Bonfá
- 5 Triste | Antônio Carlos Jobim
- 6 Recordame | Joe Henderson
- 7 Olha Maria | Antônio Carlos Jobim