



# ITALIAN SHORT STORIES TOMMASO STARACE QUARTET

## *play the photo of* **GIANNI BERENGO GARDIN**

Saxophonist Tommaso Starace returns to Villages In Action with a newly recorded project which will soon be released on Universal Records:

'Italian Short Stories - Tommaso Starace Quartet plays the photos of Gianni Berengo Gardin'.

An aficionado of black and white photographs, the Italian saxophonist completes his second Jazz/Photograph CD. Ten years earlier he had explored the iconic photos of Magnum Photographer Elliott Erwitt.

This time Starace explores the world of one of the most celebrated Italian Photographers considered 'The Cartier Bresson' of his country.

Winner in 2008 of the Lucie award, one of the most prestigious prizes in the world of Photography, Berengo Gardin has published more than 210 books and he's famous particularly for having taken pictures in Italy from the 40's up until now.

Starace has chosen 14 images from the vast portfolio of Berengo, images that tell a story and that accompanied by the quartet's music create an atmosphere of 'cinematic jazz' for the audience that come along to listen.

In concert the photos will be projected onto a screen and backed up by the music of the quartet.

Photos taken in Palermo, Milan, Venice, Genoa, Siena, Florence. In each image there's a story happening that Starace and his quartet want to narrate through the performance of the music specifically written for each image.

**Starace tells us:**

'After 20 years in the UK and notwithstanding my good fortune in living in one of the most beautiful and stimulating cities of the world, London, I had succumbed to a touch of healthy homesickness and nostalgia for the memories of my childhood. So it was that I felt the need to work with my quartet on compositions with strong melodies, in tune with the elements that make Italian music so famous throughout the world. Improvisation is still present but in a less important role: it is the melodies that accompany and bring to life the images, that tell a tale. Given the large number of pieces, I decided that the pieces should be brief while still leading the listener on a short journey into each photo. Thanks to the images of Gianni Berengo Gardin I have had the good fortune to travel with my imagination through his wonderful photos that led my imagination to Italian cities such as Palermo, Milan, Naples, Venice, Florence ... for me it was a leap back into my Italian background and the memories and experiences that infected my music are still a source of delight and contentment. I wish the listener a similar experience.

*'On discovering Gianni Berengo Gardin's images, the Starace quartet took them as a source of inspiration for their compositions, thereby suggesting an evocative key for their interpretation that has the merit of originality and the appeal of conjuring up images'.*

**Roberto Mutti (photograph critic)**



# Italian Short Stories

Tommaso Starace Qrt plays the photos of Gianni Berengo Gardin



1) Recollection  
(Lido of Venice 1958)



2) The Bubble vendor  
(Venice 1960)



3) Motion in Stillness  
(Milan 1950)



4) Ravel's Waltz  
(Venice 1959)



5) Let The Magic Begin  
(Alatri 2000)



6) Olivetti's Touch  
(Ivrea 1954)



7) 'Jamme!'  
(Naples 1997)



8) Interius Tranquillitas  
(Siena 1973)



9) Nothing must change  
(Genoa 2002)



10) The amused gypsy girl  
(Palermo 1966)



11) Senually Deranged  
(Florence 1998)



12) Il. Adagio Assai, Piano Concerto in G Major  
(Venice 1960)



13) Back to My Roots  
(Tuscany 1958)



14) Echos of Naples  
(Naples 1958)

