



**DARTINGTON IMPROVISING TRIO:
LIVE AT THE PRIORY
(FMRCD161-i0205)**

Keith Tippett (piano),
Paul Dunmall (saxophones),
Julie Tippetts (voice, percussion, aux. instrume



The Dartington Improvising Trio 'Live at the Priory' is amazingly the first recording from this extremely distinguished group consisting of three of the most respected names in British Jazz and improvised music, Keith Tippett, Julie Tippetts and the British saxophone colossus Paul Dunmall.

Although all three have literally hundreds of recordings under their belt throughout there highly successful careers, this is the first from their trio, formed some years ago at the Dartington Summer School in Devon, where they originally held annual teaching posts.

It was here that the trio developed their unique form of group improvisation, and gave many concerts and lectures before embarking on a series of tours through out the UK and mainland Europe.

The background story to this release however is ridiculed with frustration, setbacks and unbelievable bad luck, and in many ways it seems amazing this recording has finally appeared at all. Mercifully it has!!

Over a two year period FMR digitally recorded 3 concerts of the group, one in Bristol, (in the South West of England ,at the Rare Music Club), one at the Vortex Jazz Club in North London, and one at 'the Priory' Southend in the South East of England, as part of the Southend 3rd International Jazz Festival.

All totally different types of venues clearly illustrating how amazingly this music has transpended musical boundaries

This concert was performed in a beautiful 6th century Priory (in the middle of a large Park of the same name) and although obviously never intended as a concert venue with very old stone floors and walls, the Priory has an amazing acoustic, fascinating history and eloquent ambiance.

And of the other recordings?some were unuseable because of noise and other technical problems, some were rejected by the musicians as not being good enough musically, and the remaining stolen in two separate burglaries at the record companies offices!! it almost felt like a conspiracy!

Luckily the music the musicians and record company all agreed whole heartedly that the best were thankfully safe and sound, and finally appear here to give testament to this extraordinary group of musicians, and their incredible group improvisation.



**KEITH TIPPETT
PAUL DUNMALL
JULIE TIPPETTS****DARTINGTON
IMPROVISING TRIO**

Trying to describe the music is often counter productive, its almost impossible to take in the acres of musical landscapes these sonic travellers traverse but amazingly they always seem in perfect empathy, like a flock of birds that twists and turns in perfect formation but know no flight plan.

Keith explores all the piano can offer and plenty more, playing keys, strings and producing stunning harmonics from the many devices he places in the strings of his prepared piano, as well as employing various percussion and musical boxes, while Jullie is a revelation with the sheer range

and beauty of her voice, swooping from soft romantic sounds to shrieks, growls and an uncatalogable range of sound, surely the Cathy Berberian of contemporary improvisation,!

Little needs also to be said about Paul Dunmall who has justifiably gained the reputation as one of the most important, innovative and sheer creative saxophonists in the world today, and the perfect companion to Keith and Julies work. Again his sound palette is exceptionally varied, not only though a vast range of saxophones and other woodwind, but experimental reed instruments, and the bagpipe of which is without doubt the acclaimed master.

So sit back and enjoy a 48 minute non stop roller coaster of unbelievable musical creativity created by musicians firmly in the 21st century .

Recorded live at The Priory, Priory Park, Southend-on-Sea as part of the 3rd Southend International Jazz Festival on Sunday 8th August 2004.

Recording Engineer: Trevor Taylor

CD design by Ewan Rigg

Many thanks to Chas Munford

