



EGILSSON, PERDERSEN, DARLING, LIVE IN VIENNA

EGILSSON, PERDERSEN, DARLING, LIVE IN VIENNA — Quantum Leap Group Ltd. 2006. MVD Visual, PO Box 280, Oaks, PA 19456. www.MVDvisual.com. QLDVD 6834. *Basses Three-O; Whoopie Do-Whoopie Don't; Casa Del Alcade [sic]; Unfinished Business; Cello Suite I; Satz-Menuetto II; You Don't Know What Love Is; You Gotta Be Kiddin'!!; Stinky Poob! O Tysta Ensambet.*

PERSONNEL: Arni Egilsson, Niels-Henning Orsted Pedersen, Wayne Darling, double bass; Fritz Pauer, piano; John Hollenbeck, drums.

By Bob Gish

Such a rich, low, resonant, vibrating sound! Wherever you are, soon you realize that you miss missing it. Maybe because of this appeal, the double bass is more and more being featured as a solo instrument and as this DVD proves, such recognition is long over due and much deserved. Jazz enthusiasts generally know and love all that a good bass player does and means to any ensemble. Seldom, however, is it primarily a bass ensemble, a bass trio as is the case in *Live In Vienna*. Maybe mostly bass aficionados will seek out this production. Maybe the primary audience at the concert was such fans. Maybe not, for here is the raw essence of the creative spirit, the excitement of original composition, the marvel of technique, the stuff of joy in sound, the pleasure of music.

Such an illustrious, world renowned trio as featured here is not to take anything away from the essential and traditional role of the bass — as part of the rhythm section in jazz and big brother to the cello in classical music. All three performers have broad backgrounds in both jazz and classical music as recording artists, professors, and symphony musicians. This DVD is an augmentation, an enrichment an unusual and somewhat quirky enhancement of all things bass.

How low is low isn't so much the question these days, when it comes to the reign of the bass. Rather — be it jazz-based or orchestral music it's how high is low? Just take a listen to how a master bassist like Pedersen (AKA The Great Dane NHOP) literally and figuratively handles *Bach's Cello Suite I* in track five. Five stars for track number and five stars for supreme performance. Bowed or not bowed, the bass as featured by this trio of masters can take a deep and laudatory bow!

In addition to Pedersen's homage to Bach there's also his testimonial to standards such as "You Don't

Know What Love Is," as if to say again, "Surely you know and recognize why Pedersen is such a respected bassist — such feeling such phrasing such tone!" Or, maybe you didn't know that you knew the range and versatility of the bass as solo instrument and you're glad that you remembered. For some, maybe Pedersen's solos are the heart of the project. However, the eight other original compositions, some played solo, some played as a group, some playful, some serious — contribute to a truly fantastic, one of a kind concert, thankfully recorded here for a wider audience to enjoy.

Certainly the joy and clan are obvious among the performers. In one of the great trio features, "You Gotta be Kidding," composed by Egilsson (as are "Basses Three-O," "Casa Del Alcade," and many of the other tunes) Pedersen keeps uttering "Oh Yeah" and "Alright" with a perpetual smile on his face, reinforcing what Wayne Darling says, to paraphrase, in the interview section about hearing the Double Bass for the first time when a kid in Iowa and having his father drive him to Des Moines to buy his first \$100.00 plywood bass he'd earned the money to buy, "That first encounter with the bass was the most fantastic thing I'd heard and it changed my life." It took him to Vienna and beyond. And *Live In Vienna* will transport any viewer/listener to the heights of the lowest but certainly not lowliest of instruments.



TOMMY IGOE

GROOVE ESSENTIALS — Hudson Music, distributed by Hal Leonard Corporation 7777 W. Bluemound Rd. P.O. Box 13819 Milwaukee, WI 53213

By Dave Miele

It started with a poster. A poster and an idea, of course. The idea? Create a poster containing a snapshot view of as many essential drum patterns as would fit (it was a big poster). The man behind the idea (and not pictured on the poster)? Tommy Igoe. The company that made it all happen was Vic Firth. Together, Vic Firth and Igoe put together this "groove essentials" poster several years ago. It was a useful tool. At the music school where I personally teach drums, the posters were put up in every room. Check out the poster, pick a groove or two, and have a productive lesson. The idea was simple and effective. It was also, of course, ripe for expansion. That expansion comes in the form of a new book and a new DVD, *Groove Essentials*, by Tommy Igoe. Together, the poster, book and DVD create a powerful tool for drum students and teachers alike.

This DVD has it all, covering essential grooves every drummer should know and much more. A broad range of styles are covered, beginning with rock

grooves and progressing to funk, R&B and even jazz styles. World and Latin musics are also detailed. For each style, Igoe presents several grooves at both fast and slow tempos. He plays each groove, as well as a few variations for each of the grooves. This is followed by a practical application in the form of a performance with a live band. Each performance corresponds with a chart which appears in the book form of *Groove Essentials*. The book also includes a CD with full performances (without drums) of each song. Taken together with the DVD, a student can learn a groove and several variations; then watch Igoe perform the groove as well as "talk it through". Next the student can watch Igoe use the groove in a live performance. Finally, the student can use the chart in the book to duplicate Igoe's performance. Remember this structure is followed for each groove — there are forty-seven in all!

The *Groove Essentials* DVD contains over three hours of music and instruction. There is little doubt this is one of the most comprehensive, encyclopedic collections of well rounded time-keeping material for drummers of all levels. For the beginner, Igoe presents the most simple rock grooves; all purpose patterns that are simple to play but utterly useful and practical. Some of the world music patterns toward the end of the DVD would prove a challenge even for more advanced students. Regardless of your personal playing level, one thing comes through loud and clear on the *Groove Essentials* DVD: Tommy Igoe clearly demonstrates the importance of playing time — simple or complex — in a relaxed and musical manner. There are no fancy licks on this DVD; no stunning fills. Instead there is a tome of knowledge and application of the most useful and essential time-keeping patterns for drummers of any and all musics throughout the world. This is certainly an essential DVD to add to your collection of instructional material. Of course, every copy of the *Groove Essentials* DVD comes with an original Vic Firth poster, notating each groove. After all, it started with a poster.



SCOTT LEE

QI GONG FOR MUSICIANS — www.scottleemusic.com

By Dave Miele

Qi is the Chinese word for the energy that is present in all living things. Gong means work or discipline. Thus, as bassist Scott Lee describes on his website, "... Qi Gong is the practice of learning about the flow of that energy throughout the body." Scott Lee has been a jazz bassist on the New York scene, as well as around the world, for over thirty years. He has performed with