

= 75 (album) =

75 is a live album by Austrian @-@ American jazz musician Joe Zawinul and his band the Zawinul Syndicate . It was recorded in 2007 at two performances in Switzerland and Hungary , among bandleader Joe Zawinul 's final performances . The album was produced by Joachim Becker and originally released in 2008 by JVC Compact Discs , with the Zawinul Estate and Becker serving as executive producers . It was later released by BHM Productions and Heads Up International , the BHM release with the alternate title 75th . It peaked at number eighteen on Billboard 's Top Jazz Albums chart and won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album . The album received a generally positive critical reception .

= = Overview = =

With the exception of one track , 75 was recorded during the Zawinul Syndicate 's 7 July 2007 appearance at a festival in Lugano , Switzerland , which happened to be bandleader Joe Zawinul 's seventy @-@ fifth birthday . The concert was a part of the Zawinul Syndicate 's twentieth anniversary world tour . The remaining track , " In a Silent Way " , was recorded from their 2 August 2007 show in Veszprém , Hungary . Zawinul was joined on stage by Wayne Shorter on soprano saxophone for this track . This marked a reunion for Zawinul and Shorter , two original members of Weather Report , both of whom played on the original version of this song from Miles Davis 's 1969 album of the same name . Shortly after these performances , on 11 September 2007 , Zawinul died of Merkel cell carcinoma . The Veszprém concert was Zawinul 's penultimate performance .

= = Composition = =

75 opens with " Orient Express " from Zawinul 's 1992 solo album My People . Zawinul plays the vocoder on this track . The second track , " Madagascar " , also features Zawinul on vocoder and is one of two tracks that originally appeared on Weather Report 's album Night Passage . Another Weather Report piece , " Scarlet Woman " , follows and features a bass solo by Linley Marthe . " Zansa II " is a duet with Paco Sery on kalimba and Zawinul on synthesizer and vocoder . The first disc concludes with " Cafe Andalusia " . Sabine Kabongo provides scat vocals on this track .

A combination of two Weather Report pieces " Fast City " and " Two Lines " opens disc two and features more scat singing by Kabongo . Next , " Clario " features vocals by Alegre Corrêa . Another melding of Weather Report tunes , " Badia " and " Boogie Woogie Waltz " , follows and features Corrêa on Berimbau and Kabongo on vocals . The next track is a recording of Kabongo leading the audience in a chorus of " Happy Birthday " directed at Zawinul . " In a Silent Way " , a duet between Shorter and Zawinul originally from Miles Davis 's album of the same name , follows . The album closed with " Hymn " , which seemed to one reviewer " as though [Zawinul] knew the end was near " .

= = Critical reception = =

75 received a generally positive critical reception . Michael G. Nastos of Allmusic wrote that the album exemplified Zawinul 's " personalized direction " before he died and that it " exudes all of the energy the group produced in concert " . JazzTimes 's Bill Milkowski described Zawinul 's keyboard playing as creating " dazzling , free @-@ flowing lines with the right hand while deftly orchestrating dense chords and Ellingtonian shout choruses with the left hand " . All About Jazz 's Woodrow Wilkins called the album a " musical adventure " and Zawinul 's performance " a testament to his talent and dedication in sharing his gift " . John Kelman , managing editor for All About Jazz , wrote that based on his performance Zawinul gave " no indicators that he was ill , let alone approaching death " . He closed his review by calling 75 a " fitting finale to the career of an artist whose creativity , forward thinking and extensive discography mean that he may be gone , but he 'll never be forgotten . " In the Pittsburgh Tribune @-@ Review , Bob Karlovitis called the release " a great

statement about [Zawinul 's] creativity " . He described the album 's opening piece , " Orient Express " as " almost tiring in its energy " .

The BBC 's Jon Lusk did not share the high opinions of other critics . He was " not mad about " vocalists Aziz Sahmaoui and Sabine Kabongo but found Alegre Corrêa " agreeable enough " . He liked " In a Silent Way " , calling it " beautifully serene " but wished there were other performances with similar " reflective moments " . The review in The Times by John Bungey was more positive . He noted that it was not a " generally sad affair , hard @-@ to @-@ take document " as are most final recordings of great artists , but instead " a compelling last testament of a mighty group and a fine human being " . Nick Coleman 's review in The Independent was mixed ; he wrote that the " tempos border on the frantic , phrases are spat , the will to trade licks is never less than testosteronal " but quipped that for " every sublime passage there 's a butch one " . John Fordham of The Guardian contrasted the release to Zawinul 's 2005 live album Vienna Nights . One difference he emphasized was " the typhoon drumming of Paco Sery and a battalion of percussionists [that] gives Zawinul the option of letting long stretches of the music simply groove " . He also noted that there was no comparable track with the duet with Shorter on Vienna Nights .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits = =

Performance

Joe Zawinul ? keyboards , vocoder

Jorge Bezerra ? percussion , vocals

Alegre Corrêa ? berimbau , guitar , vocals

Sabine Kabongo ? percussion , vocals

Linley Marthe ? bass

Abdelaziz Sahmaoui ? percussion , vocals

Paco Sery ? drums , kalimba , vocals

Wayne Shorter ? soprano sax on " In a Silent Way "

Production

Joachim Becker ? executive producer , mixing , producer

Klaus Genuit ? mixing

Holger Keifel ? portraits

Knut Schotteldreier ? cover design

Matjaz Vrecko ? photos

Credits adapted from Allmusic and album liner notes .

= = Charts = =

75 reached a peak position of number eighteen on Billboard 's Top Jazz Albums chart .

= = Awards = =

The album won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album . The other nominees for the award were Urbanus by Stefon Harris , Sounding Point by Julian Lage , At World 's Edge by Philippe Saisse , and Big Neighborhood by Mike Stern .

= = Release history = =