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**Review by Bruce Gallanter**

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### **LAURA ANDEL ORCHESTRA**

#### **Doble Mano (Rossbin RS029)**

With TAYLOR HO BYNUM/MATT BAUDER/CARL MAGUIRE et al - Doble Mano (Rossbin 029; EEC) With Taylor Ho Bynum - cornet, Stephanie Griffin - viola, Matt Bauder - clarinets, Raul Jaurena - bandoneon, Carl Maguire - Fender Rhodes, Ursel Schlicht - piano, Ken Filiano - double bass, Danny Tunick - vibes & gamelan, David Simons - gamelan percussion and Laura Andel - composer & conductor.

This is the third disc from the Laura Andel Orchestra and I have been looking forward to listening closely to this one since each of her previous discs has revealed distinctive layers of mystery. I attended one of Ms. Andel's sets at the Kitchen where this was recorded and remember how mesmerized I was by the performance. I love the way Laura blends different cultures into a seamless stream. Starting with ritualistic gamelan-like gongs, cautious tango-ish bandoneon, simmering horns, eerie strings and minimal piano, adding one layer at a time like a different spice. On "Part 2", the music has a playful, slightly skewered rhythmic groove that rises and falls as it evolves. A doble mano is a two way street and that is a fitting title since the streams run in different directions yet the inner flow continues like fluid traffic moving together.

This music is in between established categories like modern jazz or contemporary classical, yet it does draw from both. I love the way the bass clarinet, bowed bass and bandoneon weave their way around those haunting ghost-like spirits on "Part 3". What makes this mysterious is that we never know what will emerge from different parts. Towards the end of "Part 5", an odd, fractured melody appears and is played by the bandoneon, sort of like a sublime serpent peaking its head through the somber yet dark waters. There is a section in "Part 7" where I am reminded of the dancing elephant animation in 'Fantasia'. The last part is perhaps the scariest with clanging metals, staccato rhythms and other suspense-filled melodies. Nearly an hour long, yet the wonderful surprises at every turn never stopped - I found myself wishing there was a 2nd disc!

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