

**MARTY EHRLICH**  
**and THE DARK WOODS ENSEMBLE**  
**Emergency Peace**

**New World Records 80409**

"Everything that has dark sounds, has *duende*." This quote from an essay by Federico Garcia Lorca has stayed with me for years. Lorca defines *duende* as the power that art can have to reach past the obvious, the self-conscious, the superficial. It is a sensibility that hides from facile technique and shuns direct repetition.

At times the sounds of the clarinet, the vibrations of its dark wood, help me reach a place that seems most expressive among the instruments I play. Although I use here the flute and saxophone as well, the blend of clarinet with strings is the core sound of this ensemble, whether that blend is extended or contrasted. As "Dark Woods" is descriptive of our instrumentation, I hope it is also suggestive of something essential we've brought to light.

*Emergency Peace* evokes a feeling music can give. The more the concept of peace is used in explicitly absurd ways by societal leaders, often in the service of the call to arms for another emergency war, the more it grows in immediacy as an imperative in one's imagination. My roots in this music are in a time when changes in art and in society were dynamically intertwined. Though the link of cause and effect can grow less clear, I believe these desires for change remain consistent and related.

Most of my compositions on this recording have evolved over time, waiting for the needed experience to bring them to completion. "Charlie in the Parker" and "The Painter," by Muhal Richard Abrams and Julius Hemphill respectively, are works, part of two composers' musics, that have long inspired and challenged me. Music that uses spontaneous composition (improvisation) in its makeup, as all but one piece on this recording do, is social in dynamic. I've tried to create a context in which the participants can create (to loosely quote from composer George Lewis) without feeling tradition, or the avant-garde, peering nervously over their shoulders.

It is my intent to expand The Dark Woods Ensemble from its core instrumentation for specific pieces. Having the artistry of Muhal Richard Abrams available greatly enriched this ensemble, and he was an inspiration for us in the making of the record. A deep thanks to Abdul Wadud and Lindsey Horner, whose imaginative and interpretive skills were vital to me in conceiving and realizing these compositions. Thanks also to cellist Hank Roberts, and to bassists Mark Dresser and Mark Helias, who performed and contributed to these pieces at various stages of their growth.

Thank you for listening.  
—Marty Ehrlich

**Marty Ehrlich** is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied and performed with Jaki Byard, George Russell, Gunther Schuller, and Ran Blake. In addition to leading his own ensemble, Ehrlich has performed with a distinguished array of artists, including Muhal Richard Abrams, Anthony Braxton, John Carter, Anthony Davis, Julius Hemphill, Wayne Horvitz, and Bobby Previte. Ehrlich has appeared on over forty recordings, and has received grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:

*The Welcome*, The Marty Ehrlich Trio, Sound Aspects, SAScd002

*The Traveler's Tale*, The Marty Ehrlich Quartet, Enja6024

*Pliant Plaint*, The Marty Ehrlich Quartet, Enja5065

*The New York Composers Orchestra*, New World Records 80397

- 1- Emergency Peace 10:14
- 2- Dusk 9:25
- 3- The Painter 7:23
- 4- the tucked sleeve of a one-armed boy 1:33
- 5- Unison 9:29
- 6- Double Dance 3:42
- 7- Circle the Heart 8:37
- 8- Charlie in the Parker 4:46
- 9- Tribute 5:38

"the tucked sleeve of a one-armed boy" is dedicated to poet Donald Finkel

All compositions except "Charlie in the Parker" and "The Painter" by Marty Ehrlich, published by Dark Sounds Music BMI/GEMA

"Charlie in the Parker" by Muhal Richard Abrams, published by Ric-Peg Publishing Co. BMI

"The Painter" by Julius Hemphill, published by Good Boye Music ASCAP

Marty Ehrlich - clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, wooden flutes, alto saxophone

Abdul Wadud - cello

Lindsey Horner - bass

Muhal Richard Abrams - piano on "Dusk" and "Charlie in the Parker"

Producer: Lee Townsend

Executive Producer: Arthur Moorhead

Engineer: James Farber

Assistant Engineer: Dave Schiffman

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