



RAMSEY LEWIS

Live

LSO St Lukes, London

20th May 2010

a solo performance including tracks from
Songs From The Heart: Ramsey Plays Ramsey

Out now



45 years ago, Ramsey Lewis achieved the unthinkable and had three era-defining instrumental jazz singles in the pop charts in one year including the infectiously funky, 'The In Crowd', a tune which had crowds bopping then and still fills dance floors now. Since then, he has continued to command respect as a pianist, educator, and broadcaster, and now composer.

Songs from the Heart is Ramsey Lewis's new recording, and remarkably, despite releasing over 80 albums in his career, he marks his 75th birthday with his very first recording of all-original material. To Lewis, the CD marks a turning point in his storied career: he's found new life as a composer.

Showcasing a re-envisioned artistic sensibility, **Songs from the Heart** is a collection of 12 tracks, eight composed as the score of 2007's ballet *To Know Her...* written for the Joffrey Ballet Company, and four for 2008's *Muses and Amusements* suite. Both sets were world premier performances commissioned by the Ravinia Festival in Illinois, USA.

A bonus of Lewis' prolific writing has been an enrichment of his pianistic talent, and in fact the album features four solo performances. And it is as a solo performer that Lewis returns to London for an exclusive close and personal show at London's LSO St Lukes.

"The composing has informed my playing," says Lewis, "I'm looking at harmony and melody in a different way. I've noticed that my solos have become deeper and more contemplative." On **Songs from the Heart**, Lewis offers graceful music, played with a light, gentle, joyful touch, focused on melody and characterized by "heartfelt, lyrical and inspirational music that" says Lewis, "my fans had come to expect."

Go to Ramsey Lewis's website for an insight into *Songs from the Heart*, where Ramsey tells his personal story behind the compositions. www.ramseyssoundandstyle.com

Ramsey Lewis performs a solo concert at LSO St Luke's on May 20th 2010

LSO St Lukes 161 Old Street, London EC1V 9NG

Tickets: www.lso.co.uk or 020 7638 8891

Ramsey Lewis is available for interview

Songs from the Heart is out now on Concord Jazz. Full Press Release available

01273 475980 or by e-mail at julie@riotsquadpublicity.com

