In this album created by talented and professional photographers, the masters of art, we find only a small part of the Festival aura that can truly be felt when diving into the stormy crowd.

Today this album is a unique and only chronicle of the Festival where we can see the stars of the Klaipeda jazz festival shining bright and the still moments of the stormy crowds. The worry wrinkles on the organizers' faces are also captured; however, wrinkles turn into smiles upon the sound of jazz. This is a history of a simple but sincere miracle, Klaipeda Castle Jazz Festival, all of us created and witnessed and, hopefully, will carry on. This is not a Festival in the city anymore, but a city in the Festival accompanied by the loyal motto: GOOD MUSIC FOR GOOD PEOPLE.

I believe that we have become at least a little bit better during all those years, and today no one wonders when Klaipeda is called a Lithuanian *New Orleans*.

From my jazzy heart I thank all the people who helped to create this album, which will a chronicle of the Festival and will have a bibliographical value breathing jazz passion from every page.

Sincerely and musically Yours, Festival's founder Vytautas Grubliauskas-Kongas

ven though the fate did not allow me to stand at the cradle of Klaipeda Castle Jazz Festival fifteen years ago, I am thankful for an opportunity that led me to the festival and made me fall in love with it a decade ago.

I found out from Kongas, that the 10th anniversary Festival was a special, unique and unforgettable event with a leading star of the jazz universe Maynard Ferguson! I also learned that the 9th Festival could have been compared to Beethoven's Ode to Joy carrying joy and faith into the power of Jazz and its spells with the legendary jazz artist Toots Thielemans. It is symbolic that this white-haired jazz legend became a pioneer who opened a new page in the history of the Festival. He opened the doors to the shining light of the worldwide famous jazz stars in the sky of Klaipeda Castle Jazz Festival. Each year the festival had become more marvelous and unique, striving for the new heights.

Today I stand at the threshold of the XV festival. "This will be a truly wonderful jazz fiesta," I whisper to myself and all the jazz fans, friends and colleagues. I dear to dream out loud, that not only Klaipeda but also the whole Lithuania will participate in the XV Festival because the thrilling artists with their spectacular music will invite to celebrate everybody who believes that life without jazz is a mistake.

I am happy that this album will remind you the long and colorful road of the fifteen years that we have traveled together. This road was lit with the light of such stars as Billy Cobham, Mike Mainieri, Victor Bailey, Jim Beard, Chico & The Gypsies, Eric Marienthal, Jojo Mayer, Maceo Parker, Joe Sample, Randy Crawford and many more.

Deep in my heart I believe that you will find at least the smallest beam of wonderful music in this album breathing the spirit of Klaipeda Jazz Festival. I wish you a joyful and happy journey in the pages of Klaipeda Castle Jazz Festival history.

Sincerely and *Jazzy* Yours, Festival's organizer Inga Grubliauskiene









