



CHRISTOPH IRNIGER TRIO GOWANUS CANAL

Christoph Irniger: Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet

Raffaele Bossard: Bass

Ziv Ravitz: Drums

Recorded on June 25 & 26, 2012, at Playground Studios, Zürich, by Andy Neresheimer. Mixed and mastered by Ziv Ravitz.

Radio Producer: Peter Bürlü for Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen.

Liner notes: Peter Haffner. Cover art: Dieter Schoop.

Graphic design: Jonas Schoder. Photos: Francesca Pfeffer, Marcel Meier.

Produced by Irniger, Bossard, Ravitz and Intakt Records, Patrik Landolt.

Intakt CD 223

INSTRUMENTAL VOCALS

It is astonishing how few new jazz compositions become as popular as the standards and the tunes of the Great American Songbook. Pretty melodies you can hum along to are like a rare flower in the garden of the music rooted in blues, that form which lives from ostensibly simple melodic and harmonic fragments. The pieces on this album, compositions by the bandleader and saxophonist Christoph Irniger and the bassist Raffaele Bossard, celebrate melody without once degenerating into the trivial. They are tone poems which demonstrate that accessible melodies and complex tonal worlds need not be mutually exclusive and can in fact make sense of each other. It's fine to sing along to this music, to dance even, while inadvertently realising how sophisticated and complex it actually is.

This is achieved because the rhythm section push the sonorous potential of their instruments way further than most classical trios. Using tones of every shade and colour, the drums and bass succeed in expanding the three-piece ensemble into a veritable orchestra.

It is the tone which makes this music, and the virtue of restraint which gives it its power. Almost hesitant, the saxophone feels its way into a melodic motif, carefully allows it to unfold, till it breaks free and flies confidently through the ether like blossom in the wind. The message is that the secret of the art of living, is to take things lighter than they are.

From the title track "Gowanus Canal", to "Schattenspiel" (shadow play) and the lullaby "M" these songs emanate an atmosphere of cheerful calm without making you feel guilty for having enjoyed something beneath your level. The longer you listen, the more beautiful elements you will discover. They resonate along with catchy tunes like "Hello Africa" when they remain stuck your head – just like all the most accessible songs and standards, interpretations of which have been elevated to works of art by the jazz greats.

The Christoph Irniger Trio was formed in New York. All three musicians play in various other groups in Europe and the USA and in their short careers they have already had the opportunity to play and learn with jazz heavy-weights such as Joe Lovano, Dave Douglas and Kurt Rosenwinkel.

The bandleader und tenor saxophonist Christoph Irniger, born 1979 in Zürich, works with musicians in Switzerland, New York and Berlin, in established formations with musicians including the drummer Nasheet Waits and the saxophonist Ohad Talmor. Irniger founded the Christoph Irniger Quartett / Trio, the bands Pilgrim and Cowboys from Hell, and was sideman und co-leader of NoReduce, R.I.S.S. and the Lucerne Jazz Orchestra. He studied at the Musikhochschule Luzern with Christoph Grab and Nat Su.

The double bassist Raffaele Bossard, born 1982 in Los Angeles, studied with renowned bassists such as Heiri Känzig and is leader of his own band, Junction Box.

by Peter Haffner, Translation: Steph Morris