

JAZZ VII

ON SWISS
SSIMS

STEFANIE KUNCKLER YMONOS WWW.STEFANIEKUNCKLER.COM

1



© Caroline Minjolle

This Zurich double bass player has been active on the international scene for many years with projects of different kinds. The various groups that she's created or has been part of demonstrate that she is always ready to explore new musical dimensions. With the Ymonos Ensemble, a formation with an intimate and colourful sound, Stefanie Kunckler gives shape to an original concept interwoven with a Mediterranean feel. A fascinating sound that does not directly recall the world of jazz, but undoubtedly draws its origins from that dimension.

ERIKA STUCKY WWW.ERIKASTUCKY.CH

2



© Mirco Taliercio

An artist who's difficult to categorise. Erika Stucky seems to want to break every stylistic barrier and, above all, every expectation regarding her musical productions. The „surprise factor“ is her favourite tool. In her last album Papito, the singer combines her multiple cultural roots in an absolutely original way. The tribute to her father that she draws inspiration from makes for a surprising album, in which jazz standards and original compositions coexist in ambitious arrangements of great creative tension. Open mindedness is the quality that has always characterized Stucky.

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER & JOEY BARON WWW.INTAKTREC.CH/293-A.HTM

3



© Francesca Pfeffer

A Swiss pianist who needs no introduction, in fact her presence on a compilation of this kind could seem even a little pleonastic. On the other hand, the album recorded on 27th November 2015 at the «un-erhört!» festival in Zurich is an indisputable example of the freshness on which her musical thinking is based. The interplay with the Joey Baron's drumming is extraordinary. As always, the American musician builds not so much a rhythmic accompaniment, but rather a fascinating melodic counterpoint. The tight and creative dialogue makes Schweizer's instant creation even more limpid and impeccable, reaching here a real moment of grace. Copyright Intakt Records, www.intaktrec.ch

SWITZERLAND-JAZZAHEAD.COM



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ARTISTS



© Heinz Unger

OMRI ZIEGELE WHERE'S AFRICA WWW.OMRIZIEGELE.CH

4

If new music looks towards Africa, saxophonist Omri Ziegele has long ago embarked on the road leading south. From his instrument come original inflections that he has matured over the years in a long career that has seen him alongside some of the most important Swiss and world improvisers. The project «Where is Africa» was born several years ago (among other things with the collaboration of pianist Irène Schweizer), but today's line-up is renewed by young Yves Theiler at the piano and Dario Sisera on drums. The search for the most authentic groove continues. Copyright Intakt Records, www.intaktrec.ch



© Michelle Ettlin

THIS DIFFICULT TREE WWW.SILVANJEGGER.CH

5

Silvan Jeger, multi-instrumentalist and composer from Zurich, is a perfect example of how young musicians today are able to take on many roles and how their work is impossible to summarize in a simple formula. His many talents and skills make him one of the most interesting artists currently on the scene. The album Double Sun, marking the debut of his quartet, offers a listening opportunity full of surprise and charm. An album conceived as a multi-layered musical project, where you do not merely listen to the songs but you dive, full of amazement, into those ambitious sound atmospheres.



© Dyle Berger

ESCAPE ARGOT CHRISTOPHSTEINER.NET

6

He is known by jazz enthusiasts as the drummer of the now famous Hildegard Lernt Fliegen, but Christoph Steiner alongside the trio Escape Argot also plays the role of composer. He is hence in charge of giving form to a repertoire performed with saxophonist Christoph Grab and keyboardist Florian Favre, which he does in an extremely modern, original and liberating way. Improvisation is always one of the main components of this music, but what is evident from the first listen is a precise and personal architecture, (especially rhythmically speaking), which guarantees this group a pleasing originality.



© René Denk

ALY KEÏTA, JAN GALEGA BRÖNNIMANN, LUCAS NIGGLI WWW.LUCASNIGGLI.CH

7

Few Swiss musicians can compete with Lucas Niggli in term of his wealth of creative experience. The formations that see him as a protagonist are really innumerable. Lucas systematically looks for variety and collaborations with artists who have a particular personality. This trio, made up of the Ivorian balafon soloist Aly Keïta and the Swiss clarinetist Jan Galega Brönnimann, has been active for some time. The group already has an award-winning album, Kalo-Yele, from which we have chosen a Niggli composition. The three musicians are now preparing to return to the recording studio to mark a new stage in the history of their collaboration. Copyright Intakt Records, www.intaktrec.ch



© Christian Ducasse

SYLVIE COURVOISIER WWW.SYLVIECOURVOISIER.COM

8

2017 winner of the FONDATION SUISA Jazz Prize, this Lausanne pianist is considered today a true ambassador of Swiss jazz abroad. Her long-standing presence on the New York music scene has allowed her to establish a network of incredibly important creative relationships. Her name, in fact, is now routinely accompanied by that of the greatest soloists active on the stages of the Big Apple. Her trio's latest work, in which she is accompanied by Drew Gress on double bass and Kenny Wollesen on drums, again highlights her as an exceptional artist. Copyright Intakt Records, www.intaktrec.ch



© Gregor Brändli

SCHNELLERTOLLERMEIER WWW.SCHNELLERTOLLERMEIER.CH

9

Andi Schnellmann (bass), Manuel Troller (guitar) and David Meier (drums) baptize with their own names one of the most interesting Swiss bands. On their fourth album, Rights, they mark the achievement of an evident point of maturation. Their tracks are complex and perfectly balanced constructions. The minimalist rhythmic-melodic texture that characterizes them is ambitious. Their sound captures you in a net from which it is difficult to escape. The musical project reaches its purpose to destabilize the listener with extreme precision and skill. New jazz is born from geometry.



© E. Berrod/WIPO

MONCEF GENOUD-IVOR MALHERBE WWW.MONCEFGENOUD.COM

10

A piano/double bass duo with an absolutely classic physiognomy, yet full of regenerating vitality. From the close dialogue between these instruments, so simple and so effective, a musical pleasure seems to flow to which perhaps we are no longer accustomed. Genoud and Malherbe are two true masters: in all lightness they offer us a taste of great music. Their latest album, Walk with me, contains a nice rundown of songs from the American song book, (My one and only love, You don't know what love is, etc...), along with some original ones by Genoud. The class of execution is indisputable.



© Alex Troesch

SAMUEL BLASER TRIO WWW.SAMUELBLASER.COM

11

Blaser is an extremely courageous musician and at the same time perfectly aware of the risks to which he exposes himself. The Jurassian trombonist has familiarised Swiss audiences with his complex and unpredictable musical experiments. In each of his formations, however, he conveys an innate sense of measure and a unique instrumental mastery. The trombone in his hands turns into a versatile and surprising sound machine, without ever becoming sensationalist as an end in itself. Blaser is undoubtedly one of the most popular Swiss soloists in the world today and the stature of his partners (here with Marc Ducret on guitar and Peter Bruun on drums) confirms this.



© Marcello Togni

FRANCO AMBROSETTI WWW.FRANCOAMBROSETTI.COM

12

Happy Birthday, Franco! To celebrate his 75th birthday and a jazz career spanning over half a century, the Ticino trumpet player gathered together some of his closest friends in an American recording studio and entrusted them with some arrangements. The result was a session decidedly out of this world, from which his latest album Cheers was born. Soloists such as John Scofield, Uri Caine, Jack De Johnette, Terri Lyne Carrington, Greg Osby and many others took part. The tracklist includes some standards with very unique arrangements, as well as some original material. After listening however, it feels like we are the ones who have received the greatest gift.



© Ivano Buat

FEDERICO MONETTA QUARTET WWW.FEDERICOMONETTA.COM

13

A pianist who trained at the Haute Ecole de Musique in Lausanne with Emil Spanyi. His latest musical project is extremely fascinating and original. The pieces composed by Monetta take inspiration from moments and experiences lived near the Swiss lakes. The album is therefore called Lakes. The overall sound is rich and exuberant, the result of arrangements full of dynamism and youthful enthusiasm. The Argovese trombonist René Mosele integrates perfectly into Monetta's band, bringing his experience, precision and powerful sound.