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TOBIAS CHRISTL Verschmelzung

Tobias Christl Lieblingsband:

Tobias Christl: vocals

Niels Klein: clarinet, bass clarinet

Pablo Held: piano

Tobias Hoffmann: guitars,

Robert Landfermann: double bass

Jonas Burgwinkel: drums

Listening tips:

- [2] Zeit
- [6] Such die Sprache meines Landes
- [9] Verschmelzung

TOBIAS CHRISTL - Verschmelzung [Mergence]

You could also just sing a few songs; pretty, clear melodies in major and minor, lyrics of love and heartache, something like that. You could do that; it would be practical, compact, time-tested and would save a lot of trouble. You could use existing melodies, harmonies, lyrics, clichés that are already floating around. Just like everyone else. Almost everyone. But some just can't stand that; too worn-out, too hollow, too shallow.

Tobias Christl is somebody who can't stand it. Christl, born 1978, musically matured in Würzburg, Nürnberg, Cologne, Weimar and New York - so virtually everywhere. He is a vocalist; even more so an elocutionist than a singer, although he is certainly that too: variable and versatile, secure in the manifold colors of his voice, between purring and screaming, romantic silence and dimmed recitation. With his pop-project "Herbe Sahne" [Bitter Cream] he was one of the finalists of Udo Lindenberg's award "Panikpreis" and was also a winner of the German Video Award. This musical multi-talent doesn't only master his voice, but also plays keyboards, guitar and clarinet. Musically he does everything himself: he writes his own compositions, his own lyrics, his own songs. Without making a big deal out of it, he deliberately writes in German; the language he knows well enough to use brusque turns and a short little subordinate clause to elude the trap called meaning. Dada is an association, the lyric of the 20th century with its disruptions and breakings and of course the songwriting of the better among songwriters: Stop Making Sense. With his singing he then again wipes away all question for text comprehension and vocalizes, wordlessly, just another instrument in the sound texture and after all everything is just: music.

Tobias Christl, with his definitely programmatically so called “Lieblingsband” [Favorite Band]: with Pablo Held, the pianist, with Robert Landfermann and Jonas Burgwinkel, bass and drums, the Midas-team of the current German jazz, for whom everything they play turns to gold, in addition Tobias Hoffmann, the guitarist and the saxophonist Niels Klein: in other words the musicians collective KLAENG from Cologne, that has been working on pulling their improvised music, their jazz, out of the lonely remoteness of the niche for a few years now and has remarkable success at that.

For example: “Verschmelzung” [Mergence], Tobias Christl’s new CD: a kaleidoscope of sounds, dazzling, always in motion – and never easy to classify. For one, the almost classical entrance in “Begabter Bausatz” [Gifted Construction Kit], a crescendo as played by heavenly violins, that soon after resolves into a pastiche of speckled chord tones, that occasionally bring in a rock-like color, which then quickly vanishes again. The minimalistic pattern of “Zeit” [Time] that soars up into an impulsive groove, Christl’s vocals added, light and breezy until it disappears into a cloud of feedback. And on it goes, nothing is certain, everything is allowed: ramified harmonies, a collage of glassy sounds that builds to a pile of shards, the singer a taleteller, the melody reduced to one pitch. Then again giant leaps through tonal space, furious energy build-ups, that resolve into the casual coolness of a bass-clarinet solo, the hyped up enthusiasm in improvisation.

There are songs too, that are clear melodies, simple structures sometimes, different from case to case. There are lyrics – grown-up, but not rusted in – that are concerned with speech, that tell of searching, of despair, when one cannot find the lips, not the real moments, not carnality or meaning. And when they do take position, cannot find the real speech for these moments. What remains is motion and change. Each and every song searches for and finds its own shape and that makes the big difference and has great consequences.

LINKS

Web: <http://www.tobias-christl.de>

BIO

Tobias Christl, born 1978, studied voice and school music from 2001 to 2009 at the conservatories in Würzburg, Nürnberg, Köln and Weimar. In 2001 he received a scholarship from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and went to study in New York for a year.

He has toured in the USA, Russia, Taiwan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, France and Italy and has won awards, such as the "Jugend Kulturell-Wettbewerb" [Youth Cultural Contest], the "Vokal Total Wettbewerb" [Total Vocal Contest], the German Music Video Award, was nominated for the "Bremer Jazzpreis" and was a finalist of the "Panikpreis"-Contest.

His current projects are the "Lieblingsband" [Favorite Band] with Pablo Held, Robert Landfermann, Tobias Hoffmann, Niels Klein and Jonas Burgwinkel. The band "Wildern" [Poaching] of Matthias Nowak, Etienne Nillesen and Peter Ehwald. He plays pop-music with German lyrics with his band "Herbe Sahne" [Bitter Cream], where he is supported by Hanno Busch, Dominik Krämer and Claus Schulte. For a year he has been giving concerts with the pianist and composer Jürgen Friedrich in their duo formation Friedrich Christl. He sings backing vocals and plays keyboards in the synth-pop band Cosmono with Tobias Hoffmann, Frank Schönhofer and Ralf Gessler.

Besides his own bands Tobias plays as a guest in several ensembles, such as the Swiss formation Mats-Up, the "Bundesjazzwerkstatt", the Maxime Bender Orchestra, Frederik Köster's "Verwandlung", the U.F.O. Big Band and in the theatre ensemble of the "Schauspielhaus Köln".

As organiser Tobias makes his appearance with his participation in the jazz collective KLAENG. He arranges various concert series. He's also on the road as a DJ in clubs in Köln and Berlin.

Has worked with

Theo Bleckmann, Phil Minton, Jay Clayton, Sheila Jordan, Jen Shyu, Mat Manieri, New York Voices, Norma Winstone, Michael Schiefel, Jeff Cascaro, Fred Frith, Nils Wogram, Henning Berg, Steffen Schorn, Anette von Eichel, Judy Niemack, Jule Unterspahn, etc

Festivals & Clubs

A-Capella-Festival/Taipeh, Moers Festival/Moers, Zeltmusikfestival/Freiburg, Vokal Total-Festival/Graz, Bachfest/Leipzig, Jazzralley/Düsseldorf, A-Capella-Festival/Leipzig, Cologne Jazz Night/Köln, Vokal Total Festival/Mainz, A-Capella-Festival/Venedig, Udo Lindenberg's Panikpreis-Festival/Calw, Tollwood Festival/München, Stimmenfang-Festival/ Nürnberg, Umsonst & draussen/Würzburg

Carnegie Hall/New York, Philharmonie/Köln, Schauspielhaus/Hamburg, Schauspielhaus/Köln, Jazzclub Unterfahrt/München, A-Trane/Berlin, Stadtgarten/Köln, Moods/Zürich, etc

Has toured in

the USA, Taiwan, Russia, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Luxemburg, etc

Discography

Frederik Köster - Verwandlung (Traumton/2013)
Mats Spillmann - Psalmen von Said (Unit Records, 2012)
Maxime Bender Orchestra (2011)
Tobias Christl Lieblingsband - Dieb im eigenen Haus (NRW Records, 2010)
Blassportgruppe Südwest - Steil (Jazzhaus Freiburg, 2010)
Sebastian Klosos - Zoe (2008)
Klangbezirk - Vokale und Konsonanten (2007)

Awards

Winner of the German Music Video Award with Herbe Sahne (2012)
Finals of Udo Lindenberg's "Panikpreis" with Herbe Sahne (2012)
Nominated for the "Bremer Jazzpreis" with Wildern (2012)
DAAD-scholarship for further artistic education in New York/USA (2010)
Finalist at the vocal contest "Köln Kann" (2009)
Winner of the "Jugend Kulturell"-Contest 2007, the "Vokal Total"-Contest Graz 2006 and the "A-Capella"-Contest Taipeh/Taiwan 2007