



„Robert Menzel - Alchemy“

Robert Menzel - tenor sax

Clemens Pötzsch - piano

Robert Lucaciu - bass

Philipp Scholz - drums

„**Alchemy** is an influential tradition whose practitioners have, from antiquity, claimed it to be the precursor to profound powers. It is the chemistry of the subtlest kind which allows one to observe extraordinary chemical operations at a more rapid pace; ones that require a long time for nature to produce.“

„**Robert Menzel - Alchemy**“ is the Saxophonist's most recent offspring. It contours his musical coordinate system in an impressive fashion and takes the listener on to an adventurous and - from time to time - dangerous voyage in the pursuit of simple beauty. In reflecting his musical socialisation in the early 90ies Menzel's compositions as well as their interpretation show a humorous, yet emotionally dense and convincing approach to creating something unique within the conventional setting of a tenor-led jazz-quartet. A musical cosmos from which it is hard to escape once one has opened up to it.

Jazz and improvised music in general always reflect the soul and inner procedures of the performer(s). It is a collective process, that needs to be shaped with deep confidence in order to open up the space for the music to individuate.

The protagonists' understanding of these coherencies can be felt right away when listening to the music.

„Robert Menzel - Alchemy“ released their debut album with London-based Label TwoRiversRecords in February on a tour that started off at the well-known A-Trane Jazzclub in Berlin. The Album already received critical acclaim from all around Europe.

some press comments:

„Unique cosmos of sound. Pan-tonal-storytelling with harmonic anchors“
JazzPodium Magazine, Germany

„The chemistry between the musicians reflects the mix of influences and styles and it is impossible not to pay attention.“

Felix Amador for „Jazz, ese ruido“, Spain

„The tenor tone was heart-melting with it slow-burning vibrato“
Allison Bentley for LondonJazzNews, GB

„he actually does what alchemists once tried in their „kitchens“: transforming coarse metals into gold..“.

Peter Glotzmann for zitty magazine, Germany

“Uncommon and beautiful. A sense of unforced adventurousness permeates: the music seems to unfold on its own terms, patiently and enigmatically, through ever-shifting terrain.”
Aaron Parks, Pianist

Bios

Robert Menzel was born in Dresden, Germany, on October 14th 1980. After the early end of a quite promising career in Basketball, he decided to pick up the tenorsaxophone at the the age of 17 and soon after started his studies at the Dresden College of Music.

Some years later he moved to Brussels on a scholarship granted by the german academic exchange service (DAAD) to study at the „Koninklijk Conservatorium van Brussel“ with John Ruocco, from where he holds a Master's degree in jazz performance. He currently lives and works in Berlin.

Being a fellow disciple of „The School of Spontaneous Melodism“ he is working in the fields of modern jazz/improvised music. For his wide-angled improvisational concept he was a.o. awarded the „Carl Maria von Weber Grant“ by the city of Dresden.

He played concerts all around europe with both his own groups (Robert Menzel Quartet, cholesterol damage, schulbus, aldimentz) and as a sideman with a.o. Richie Beirach, Till Brönner, Joachim Kühn, Albert Vila, Günter „Baby“ Sommer, Gunter Hampel, Erik Vermeulen, Matthias Schubert, Flo Bublys' BRUMCALLI

Clemens Pötzsch was also born in Dresden, Germany, albeit on the 12th of March 1995. He studied jazz piano and composition at the Dresden College of Music, from where he holds a couple of diplomas.

He currently resides in Leipzig, Germany and besides playing with „Robert Menzel - Alchemy“ he writes music for his own ensembles like „slavicon“ or the german-lebanese group „Masaa“, with whom, as well as a solo-pianist, he received numerous awards (European Jazzprice Burghausen/Ger, Golden Crocus/ PL, „International Jazz Piano Competition Freiburg/Ger, Bremer Jazzprize/Ger, a.o.). He recently released a highly acclaimed solo-piano album entitled „People and Places“.

Robert Lucaciu was born in Plauen, Germany, in 1988. He started learning cello at early age and trained in this subject for 12 years. At the age of 12 he added the double bass to his repertoire and in 2005, when only 16, he was allowed to study both classical and jazz double bass at the Leipzig Academy of Music with Thomas Stahr and Pepe Berns.

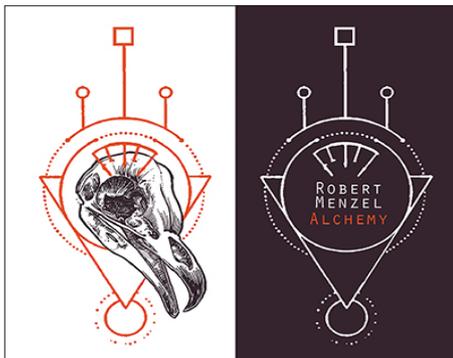
Currently, Robert Lucaciu is working with a lot of different groups; most notably his trio „Plot“ which won the „Young German JazzPrice Munich“ in 2014, the group „Baby Boomers“, „Nautilus“ and „Eva Klesse Quartet“. He also performs regularly with musicians like Uli Kempendorff, Hayden Chisholm, Jürgen Friedrich, Achim Kaufmann and John Enders.

Lucaciu has received numerous awards and scholarships (Cultural Foundation of the State of Saxony, Hans & Eugenia Jütting Foundation, Future Jazz Award, jugend jazzt,...)

Philipp Scholz is a drummer from Dresden, Germany, born in the crucial year of 1990. He picked up the drums at a very young age, and - due to the fact that he had too much time on his hands and not enough friends to play with - spent a significant number of years hidden in a practice-room in a dark basement. Upon his release from the dungeon in 2008, he started studying Music at the Leipzig Academy of Music with Heinrich Köbberling and played with the likes of Richie Beirach, Johannes Enders, Hayden Chisholm, Jürgen Friedrich among many others.

He is busy in a wide area of music, ranging from freer settings („Plot“, „Das Blaue Pony“), rock-influenced modern Jazz („P.S.'s FLAM“), contemporary jazz („Albert Vila Quartet“, Robert Menzel „Alchemy“, „Nautilus“) to Big Bands („Monika Roscher Big-Band“, „Spielvereinigung Süd“) and is delivering a unique and delicate sound to all of these formations. He also regularly works with poet extraordinaire Nora Gomringer in a project called "Peng - und du bist tot" .

Online resources:



Listen to complete album [here](#)

some videos can be found here:

[Granada](#)
[Barbie's 55th Birthday](#)

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