

Benedikt Jahnel TRIO

The Invariant

Benedikt Jahnel (DE) - Piano
Antonio Miguel (ES) - Bass
Owen Howard (CA) - Drums



ECM 2523: The Invariant

The TRIO has been an “invariant” in the life of Berlin-based pianist Benedikt Jahnel, “a constant in a transformational period” as he puts it, and new album *The Invariant* is issued as the players reach their tenth anniversary as a working unit. It was recorded in Oslo’s Rainbow Studio in April 2016, and produced by Manfred Eicher. The opening track, “Further Consequences”, picks up where the trio’s critically-lauded album *Equilibrium* left off, extending ideas about pianistic patterning and textural playing. **The Invariant** pools the best of the many pieces Benedikt Jahnel has composed in the last five years, incorporating the dynamic responses of his trio partners into the fabric of the material. For the most part this is music carefully shaped for these players; this is its strength and the source of its detail.

More information on the Benedikt Jahnel TRIO check www.benejahnel.de.

“... shines with crystal clarity and pure unsentimental emotion. The TRIO travels in new ways far beyond clichés into a luminous space of musical freedom.” Wolfgang Muthspiel

Press clips:

“This exquisite chamber jazz is quite at the height of its time, intelligently constructed and filled with vitality.” - Karl Lippegaus, Stereo, January 2017

“Their music is the classical music of the present time.” - Andrea Weber, Merkur, February 2017

“Jahnel has an acute ear for melody and that sweetens any knotty pill embedded within these eight tracks. Exciting, playful, varied in mood, but with one overriding constant: yes, the invariant is real beauty.” - Peter Bacon, londonjazznews.com, Februar 2017

“The whole is beautifully crafted with the three constituent members of the trio bouncing off each other musically and rhythmically.” - C. Hugh, Bebop Spoken Here, Januar 2017

“... frenetic and long-lasting ovations.” - Reinhard Palmer, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Februar 2017

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"This is the debut disc by the German, Spanish and American trio of pianist Benedikt Jahnel, bassist Antonio Miguel and drummer Owen Howard, and it's a delicate, flowing creation packed with harmonic and rhythmic interest. All the tracks are composed by Jahnel, who is also a member of the group Cyminology, and there is a seamless flow to improvisation throughout the album. [...] and there's certainly considerable evidence of logical thinking as well as deep emotion on these tracks." - John Watson, Jazzcamera.co.uk, November 2012

"Their combined music draws from classical influences and contemporary grooves. At times rarefied and subdued, elsewhere hypnotic and intense .. It will be interesting to see where this trio ventures next." - Simon Adams, Jazz Journal UK, December 2012

"A truth already apparent on Modular Concepts (Material, 2008), but even clearer with Equilibrium, the trio's long overdue follow-up and ECM debut. If anything, there are some similarities in Jahnel's approach to fellow label mate, pianist Nik Bärtsch and Ronin. But if Bärtsch and Jahnel share a certain rigor when it comes to rhythmic constructs and, more importantly, rhythmic placement, Jahnel is more intrinsically driven by song form—even, as is the case with the opening "Gently Understood," if he takes a long time getting there. Through the first three of its five minutes, Jahnel's trio collectively explores a modal, pedal toned vamp, building to an extemporaneous climax only to fade to a near-whisper and the introduction of the pianist's chordal theme—albeit one where Howard both holds down the form and explores further, a tasteful meshing of delicate cymbals and reverb-drenched, rim shot-driven drums. With Equilibrium, Jahnel has carved his own evocative space on a label that may seem loaded down with piano trios, but for whom, in the case of Jahnel, there's clearly room for one more." - John Kelman, allaboutjazz.com, December 2012

"The dark sounds, pianist and mathematician Benedikt Jahnel uses for the introduction of his ECM premier, directly show his favour for colors and microtonal friction. A fascinating record of the highest standard." - Sven Thielmann, Hifi Records, December 2012

"Their combined music draws from classical influences and contemporary grooves. At times rarefied and subdued, elsewhere hypnotic and intense .. It will be interesting to see where this trio ventures next." - Simon Adams, Jazz Journal UK, December 2012

"The German pianist is in the band Cyminology, and has also played with the Metropole Orchestra, Phil Woods and Charlie Mariano among others. When he is not playing the piano he is a researcher in mathematics. So you might expect to find complex rhythmic divisions and other mathematically inspired constructions in his music, and you would be exactly right. He is lucky to have the extremely adept American drummer Owen Howard with him, while Spanish double bassist Antonio Miguel is clearly no slouch as a time-keeper, too. So, does it all sound rather scientific and clinical. Well, no, not at all. A tune like Sacred Silence is marvellously lyrical, with piano and bass lines weaving around each other on a bed of brushed cymbals and snare. Other pieces are like sound sculptures (Moorland & Hill Land) or moving solo piano contemplations which grow into a kind of group solo. Lovely stuff." - thejazzbreakfast.com, November 2012

"... a trio of special class. ...it is the instinctive sureness and almost perfectly balanced play that distinguishes this trio particularly." - Aba, Mannheimer Morgen, October 2012

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Benedikt Jahnel
 *1980 Grenoble (F)
 Piano / Composition

*"What a speed, what a pressure,
 what an energy." (SZ January 06)*

Benedikts musical training started in southern Germany, in Munich with classical piano lessons. Followed by six in the Bavarian and German youth Big Band as well as studies at the University of Art in Berlin with David Friedman and Hubert Nuss, and at City College New York with John Patitucci, Kenny Werner, Jean-Michel Pilc ..

Awards:

2003 "Jazz Award Tübingen": 1st prize, best band
 2004 "Möbus Award", Berlin: 1st prize, best band
 2006 "Brunswick Award for Composition", New York: 1st prize
 2011 "Creole Jazz Award", Bundeswettbewerb Berlin: 1st prize

Benedikt toured in over 45 different countries:

Among others in Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Finland, Spain, France, Portugal, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Venezuela, South Korea, USA, Canada, Israel, Syria, Sudan, Egypt, Jordany, United Emirates, Libanon, Zypres, Greece, Armenia, Aserbaidshan, Kasachstan, Georgia, Turkey, Myanmar, India and Singapur, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Ghana, Malaysia ...

Festivals among others:

Montreal Jazzfestival (CA), Jazz Baltica (DE), Münchner Klaviersommer (DE), Jazz An Der Donau (DE), Jazz-Festival Usti Nad Laben (CZ), Show of Hands (IR), International Jazz Festival In Bukarest (RO), Hermanstadt International Jazz Festival (RO), City Jazz Night Braunschweig (DE), Patras Jazz Festival (GR), Würzburg Jazz Festival (DE), Edmonton Jazz Festival (CA), Jazzfocus Berlin (DE), CUNY Festival New York (US), Almaty Jazz Festival (KZ), London Jazz Festival (GB), Caracas Jazz Festival (VZ), Enjoy Jazz Germany (DE), Augsburger Jazzsommer (DE), Jazznacht Jena (DE), Stimmenfang Festival (DE), Festival Rudolstadt (DE), Odessa Jazzfest (UK), SongXJazz Tokyo (JP), Show of Hands (IR), Morgenland Festival (DE), Akbank Jazz Festival (TK), Baku Jazz Festival (AZ), Palatia Jazzfestival (DE), Brazov Jazz Festival (RO), Jazz im Palmengarten (DE), Vancouver Jazz Festival (CA), Rochester Jazz Festival (US), Jazzfest Wien (AT), Jazzfestival Viersen (DE), Ostsee Jazzfestival (DE), Loule Jazz Festival (PT), ...

Cd-Produktions among others:

Max.bab: „feat. Martin Scales“(embab), „going home“ (embab), „Live feat. Charlie Mariano“ (embab), „Bright Eyes“ (embab), „Inner Orbit“ (ACT), „Laws of Motion“ (embab), „Wild Pitch“ (embab), Das Kaktus 6tet „Vol.1“ (embab), Peter Ehwald + Benedikt Jahnel: „Doublequartet: Music for string quartet and jazz quartet“ (konnex), Benedikt Jahnel TRIO: „Modular Concepts“ (material records), „Equilibrium“ (ECM), „The Invariant“ (ECM), Cyminology: „Per Se“ (doublemoon), „Bemun“ (doublemoon), „Asnej“ (ECM), „Saburi“ (ECM), „Phoenix“ (ECM).

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Over the past years, Benedikt worked among others with the following artists and groups:

As Leader / Coleader:

'Benedikt Jahnel TRIO' (feat. Owen Howard und Antonio Miguel); 'Max.bab' (feat. Max von Mosch, Andi Haberl und Benny Schäfer); 'Cyminology' (feat. Cymin Samawatie, Ketan Batthi und Ralf Schwarz); 'Das Kaktus 6tett' (feat. Susi Folk, Ben Kraef, Johannes Lauer, Roland Fidezius, Jens Dohle); 'Peter Ehwald + BJ - Doublequartet' (S. Caswell, J. Kittel, S. Braun, K. Wang, M. Aronoff, D. Weiss); 'New York Radiation' (Matteo Sabatini, Felix Fromm, Antonio Miguel, Tommy Craine)

As composer:

'Metropol Orchestra' (NL) (conducted by John Clayton); 'Pophorn Bigband' (FI) (conducted by Vellu Halkosalmets); 'Max Frankl Quintett'; 'Celina Muza' Chansonprogram: Männerlieder

As Sideman:

'Bundes Jugend Orchester' (conducted by Gunther Schuller); 'Bundes Jugend Jazz Orchester' (conducted by Peter Herbolzheimer); 'Prana Trio New York' (USA) (feat. Brian Adler, Sunny Kim); 'Matteo Sabatini Quartet' (I, USA, D) (feat. Matteo Sabatini, Tucker Jaro, Alex Menges); 'Holger Scheidt Quartett' (D, F, USA) (feat. Holger Scheidt, Alex Terrier, Steve Davis)

And the following artists:

Rich Perry, Phil Woods, Ack Van Royen, Johannes Enders, Charlie Mariano, David Friedman, Frank Möbus, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Dave Liebman, John Abercrombie, Manfred Eicher, Clarence Penn, Jonas Burgwinkel, Dan Weiss, Sara Caswell, Henning Sieverts, Gunther Schuller, Peter Herbolzheimer, Bart Van Lier, Kate McGarry, Brandenburger Sinfoniker, Martin Stegner, ...

Mathematics:

Jahnel also has a PHD in mathematics. He is currently working as a researcher at the Weierstrass Institute Berlin. His main interests are interacting particle systems and their description via Gibbs-measures as well as ad-hoc networks in the context of probability theory.

„Benedikt is a creative, sensitive and communicative personality“ - „... he plays his ass off!“
David Friedman

„This guy is swinging...“ „...great flow“ Richie Beirach

„Benedikt is an energetic young musician with excellent time and interesting ideas“ „...I was pleased to hear his new compositions“ John Taylor

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