Benedikt Jahnel Trio

Press kit · New album “Amenable” (embab)



Benedikt Jahnel, Marc Muellbauer, Owen Howard. Photo: Olena Krasnokutska

Three musicians, one shared breath: the Benedikt Jahnel Trio with Benedikt Jahnel (piano), Marc Muellbauer (bass) and Owen Howard (drums) combines the clarity of chamber-music form with the freedom of jazz.

The new album: Amenable

Amenable is the new album by the Benedikt Jahnel Trio. In thirteen new compositions, Benedikt Jahnel, Marc Muellbauer and Owen Howard explore a musical space between lyrical clarity, rhythmic complexity and great improvisational freedom.

At its centre is an interplay that is as precise as it is open. The compositions create clear musical worlds within which the three musicians move freely, reshaping the pieces again and again as they play. Carefully developed structures combine with spontaneity, openness of sound and a fine sensitivity for dynamics and form.

The music is multi-layered without losing itself in complexity. It can be rhythmically dense and energetic, then transparent, lyrical and very calm. What defines it is the interplay between compositional clarity and a readiness to leave the musical moment truly open.

For Benedikt Jahnel, composing is often the starting point of a musical search. The pieces grow from single melodic, harmonic or rhythmic ideas into musical spaces with their own rules, tensions and possibilities. The composition sets a direction without fixing the path. Together with Marc Muellbauer and Owen Howard, this creates musical situations that change from performance to performance. A central theme of *Amenable* is thus the relationship between structure and freedom.

What makes the album special

– Thirteen new compositions by Benedikt Jahnel showing different facets of his musical language.
– A communicative trio of equals: piano, bass and drums develop the music together.
– Precise rhythmic and harmonic ideas meet lyrical melodies and great improvisational freedom.
– Energy and subtlety: dense rhythmic passages stand alongside transparency, calm and sensitivity for sound and dynamics.

Album details

Artist	Benedikt Jahnel Trio
Album	Amenable
Label	embab / LC 14355 (BSC Music GmbH)
EAN	4015307993944
Running time	74:49, 13 tracks
Recorded	3 and 4 April 2025, Bonello Studio Berlin
Recording engineer	Tobias Ober
Mixing and mastering	Marc Muellbauer
Compositions	Benedikt Jahnel



Tracks

1	Amenable	6:12
2	Blessing	5:23
3	Dilemma	4:02
4	Nada	5:42
5	Limit Cycle	5:36
6	Salis	8:03
7	Cloud Forest	7:21
8	Ergodicity	6:36
9	November Sun	8:52
10	Notion	3:30
11	Prolegomenon	4:19
12	Sivol	6:40
13	Sunlight	2:33

The musicians

Benedikt Jahnel (piano, composition) is one of the distinctive pianists and composers of European modern jazz. The trio albums *Equilibrium* (2012) and *The Invariant* (2017) were released on ECM Records to wide international acclaim. Tours have taken him to almost 50 countries. He is also professor of applied stochastics at TU Braunschweig.

Marc Muellbauer (bass) was born in London and lives in Berlin. He is best known for his long-standing work in the Julia Hülsmann Trio and Quartet on ECM. His range extends from contemporary classical music to jazz, and he leads his own band, Marc Muellbauer's Kaleidoscope. He also mixed and mastered *Amenable*.

Owen Howard (drums) is from Canada and has lived in New York for many years, playing with musicians such as John Abercrombie, Dave Liebman, Sheila Jordan and Dave Holland. He and Benedikt Jahnel share an exceptionally long musical partnership that goes back to Jahnel's years in New York and gives their interplay its special ease.

Trio albums

new	*Amenable*	embab
2017	*The Invariant*	ECM 2523
2012	*Equilibrium*	ECM 2251
2008	*Modular Concepts*	material records

Press

“A preternaturally sympatico rhythm section and Jahnel’s compositional leadership make The Invariant a delight from start to finish.”

Michael Toland, blurtonline (USA), June 2017

“… if anything comes close to the definition of chamber jazz, then this is it. Part jazz, part classical, it is music that is carefully crafted to bring out the best of a small, acoustic-based ensemble.”

Ian Lomax, Jazz Journal (GBR), April 2017

“Jahnel has a rich classical tone that is intimate and deep. Pastoral beauty.”

George W. Harris, Jazz Weekly (USA), March 2017

“Without question, among ECM’s Top 5 releases of 2012.”

Tyran Grillo, ecmreviews.com, on Equilibrium

„Dieser exquisite Chamber-Jazz ist ganz auf der Höhe seiner Zeit, intelligent konstruiert und von Vitalität erfüllt.“

K. Lippegaus, Stereo, Januar 2017

„Die Band funktioniert wie ein Lebewesen, verzögert in Rubato-Teilen gemeinsam, scheint gemeinsam zu atmen, und die Solospots gehen sehr organisch ineinander über.“

Angela Ballhorn, Jazz’N’More, März 2017

Contact and material

Booking and enquiries: **mail@benejahnel.de**

Information, audio sample and photos for promoters: **www.benejahnel.de/amenable/en.html**

High-resolution press photos, stage plan and tech rider: **www.benejahnel.de/en/downloads_en.html**

Label: embab / BSC Music GmbH, www.bscmusic.com