

Alexandra Lehmler

## **Studiokonzert**

To a musician silence is what a white canvas is to an artist. It's where power can emerge, shedding new light onto the world, or leading to the other end of its spectre. Those delicate, ever-increasing, fluttering saxophone sounds which shape the current album clearly demonstrate her reaching out to the full scope of melodic sounds. And the best thing is, she invites us to join her journey. Where to? Each listener can decide for him or herself, because 'sans mots' appeals to the imagination with (almost) no words.

The upcoming release of the new vinyl by the Alexandra Lehmler Quartet was recorded during a live session at the Bauer Studios in Ludwigsburg, Germany. Some of the recorded tracks have been around for a long time, they are deeply engrained in the musicians' capable fingers and heads. However, that evening other tracks were presented to an audience for the very first time. The album's tone is set by that quality of a first take, pure and plain. The live concert reflects a great deal of savoir-vivre, joy of life, down-to-earth quality and a willingness to explore. The doer Alexandra Lehmler is accompanied by perfectly complimentary co-musicians: Franck Tortiller on vibraphone, Patrice Héral on drums and Matthias Debus on double bass. They have all known each other for years which is clearly audible in a positive sense. Let's take 'Sundance', the first track of the record. A pulsating track with a spiralling flow, harmonies of almost lyrical lightness and solo passages on vibraphone culminating in a euphoric percussion frenzy. Alexandra Lehmler repeatedly accelerates the pace, freeing herself, and yet manages to give her fellow musicians ample leeway for their individual and improvised soundscapes.

In the course of the album, band leader Alexandra Lehmler sparks the art of imagination in many different ways. Five songs, five stages, each stand-alone and yet nevertheless bearing the comprehensive signature of the two composers Alexandra Lehmler and Matthias Debus. In 'Fly away', the first song on the album's B-side, the melodic patterns are joined, nearly imperceptible and in a very natural way, by vibraphone, bass and drums. The song's mood reminds of distant desert sand, wind in your hair, sun-tanned tingling on your skin. As could be expected by Francophile Alexandra Lehmler, the concert ends with the track 'Paris'. The sax player develops a lively, strolling, light-footed city fairy tale, a picture-book style cinematic experience in your minds, Paris as the place of so many dreams. At the heart of the track is a dialogue by vibraphone, bass and drums which plunges the dreamy cityscape into completely different colours. What an idiosyncratic, true contrast! After all we are told the artistic and freedom-loving way of life of every true Parisian includes the rain in the streets of Montmartre, the hustle and bustle in the artists' quarter of Saint-Germain and the deep abyss behind magnificent facades. The Lehmler Quartet reflects this approach to life in a wonderful way: Profoundly dedicated, authentic jazz with a large array of intense colours.