



Kathrin Pechlof Trio
Toward The Unknown

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Line-Up: Kathrin Pechlof (harp), Robert Landfermann (bass), Christian Weidner (alto saxophone)

Track-Listing: 1. Silence is a Looking Bird (ISRC: DE-EN4-18-10401), 2. Fluge (ISRC: DE-EN4-18-10402), 3. Elegie (ISRC: ff.), 4. Feldfolge, 5. Thema und Variation, 6. Earth, 7. Toward The Unknown 8. Versuch, 9. Made Up Animals

***Toward The Unknown* – music as creative exploration**

The harp has never had a major role in jazz, but then again, harpist Kathrin Pechlof's music encompasses more than jazz. Her success in both traditional and contemporary classical music, her venture into a jazzy version of Bavarian folk music and the Avant-pop of Cosmic Groove Orchestra led to her consequent turn towards contemporary jazz and work with such players as Pablo Held, Niels Klein, and Sebastian Gille. Such a background lends a depth and breadth to Pechlof's play that places her in the forefront of the new generation of innovative musicians. Pechlof's trio of like-minded musicians alto saxophonist/composer Christian Weidner and bassist Robert Landfermann has been testing musical borders for some seven years. Jazzthing depicted their first PIROUET album, Imaginarium, as "chamber music worlds of quiet beauty and understated elegance". On their new PIROUET CD, the three guide the listener towards the beauty and challenge of the unexpected.

Known for his work with the likes of Nils Wogram and Kenny Werner, Christian Weidner's PIROUET albums have received critical acclaim. On the present album, Pechlof's partner shares composing duty, and acts "as a mirror, critic and sometime-catalyzer" in Pechlof's compositional process as well. The two have absolute faith in bassist Robert Landfermann's musical decisions and inspirations. A member of Pablo Held's acclaimed trio from its inception, Landfermann has worked with such luminaries as John Scofield and Jim Black. Kathrin emphasizes that, "This trio is a collective project. There is no leader." As for their approach to music as well as life, "It's important to move out of the comfort zone, to make what is foreign familiar, to internalize the external." And for their audience, "There is a need for music in which the listener doesn't just hear what he is expecting. We've achieved something when the listener is affected internally."

Track by Track:

Weidner's **Silence is a Looking Bird** and **Earth** are tributes to the poet E. E. Cummings. Weidner likens them to "tranquil musical islands, woven out of concordant threads that slowly separate, continuously branching out into new forms."

On **Fuge**, Pechlof employs that music form's basic contrapuntal compositional technique in a relatively strict manner before setting up a vamp for the trio to improvise over. There's a rhythmic drive and capricious playfulness to the piece.

Weidner calls **Elegie** "a ballad between sadness and solace. Kathrin's intro captures the darker realms of the harp." Meditative and introspective in the best sense, the music plumbs the depths of sensation and emotion.

Weidner wrote **Feldfolge** for his partner Kathrin after checking out how the harp is actually put together. "The way it functions is sometimes incredibly cryptic. It presents a superb puzzle for the composer to work out. The piece wanders from abrasive textures through ecstatic cries, into gentle supplication and unadorned beauty."

There's a fin de siècle feel to Pechlof's **Thema und Variation** – a lightness and sense of space as fragile as hand-blown glass, and Pechlof's composition **Toward the Unknown** epitomizes the album's exploratory sense of wonder.

The German word **Versuch** means attempt, effort, approach, trial, experiment. For Kathrin, "Every improvisation is an experimental process with unknown results – also in the sense of 'trial and error'. It's music as the perpetual attempt to create beauty – also, the beauty of failure."

Made Up Animals – all three – sounds free – and anyway, we're all 'made up animals'.

On **Towards the Unknown** the trio delves into what we sentient beings experience every second of our lives, as the three explore the awesome beauty within the mystery of our existence.

Kathrin Pechlof is available for interviews.

For general requests please contact us!

PR contact:

Steffen Mayer | Tel: +49(0)40.88 172 886 | s.mayer@herzogpromotion.com

Hanns-Christian Gerth | Tel: +49(0)40.88 172 885 | h.gerth@herzogpromotion.com