



FOR FREE HANDS | Berlin . Sofia . Athen | JAZZ - BALKAN - FUNK

www.for-free-hands.de

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FOR FREE HANDS is with Vladimir Karparov (BG), Dimitris Christides (GR), George Donchev (BG) and Andreas Brunn (D) perceived as part of the Berlin-based international jazz community. The ensemble was 2012 **winner** of the aligned by the Berlin **Berliner Kultursenat Center Price Jazz**. The new CD "**Kaleidoscope Freedom**" is available under **LAIKA Records**.

CHRISTIAN ERBER NDR: "... Europe is growing together and a quartet from Berlin provides the soundtrack. For Free Hands combines modern jazz arrangements with traditional sounds and rhythms of the Balkans. "**Kaleidoscope Freedom**" is the fourth studio album of the German – Bulgarian - Greek ensembles. A title that hearing - **25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall** - can comprehend as a statement for freedom. But also as a call to stand up for the human values it alive. Because "there is no freedom, without mutual understanding" quotes the band the French philosopher Albert Camus.

The last couple of months have been very succesful for For Free Hands: **JAZZ PODIUM** and **JAZZ Thing** have both published reviews for the new **CD**.

In the 2015-01 issue of famous german Jazzmagazin **JAZZPODIUM**, you can find a double sided interview with Andreas Brunn, which also contains content on FOR FREE HANDS.

At the end of 2014, FOR FREE HANDS performed at **JAZZ UNITS** in Berlin. New: Videos of this concert have just been uploaded to Youtube. You can also find these videos at : www.for-free-hands.de

In the was published a double-sided interview with Andreas Brunn. **SPIEGEL ONLINE** also wrote about the new record.

Christian Erber presented the new FOR FREE HANDS CD on **NDR-Sendung "PlayJazz"** and **Ulf Drechsel** at **RBB Late Night Jazz**.

In September 2014 our ensemble played in front of 2000 people at **JAZZ au CHELLAH** in Morocco and created an intense cooperation with Oud-virtuoso **Alaa Zouiten**. Furthermore, we have also played at Spanish festivals MuniJazz Festival and Jazzfestival MALAGA and toured with **PORGY & BESS** (and also other artists) in Vienna, Austria.

Press on FOR FREE HANDS at a glance:

JAZZ Thing 2014 / Issue 106: "Those who can count have a clear advantage, and being able to do fractions do not hurt either. 5/8, 7/8 & 13/16 are some of the rhythmic fabrics that form together the outfit of the multicultural Berlin-based quartet FOR FREE HANDS on its new CD "Kaleidoscope Freedom", and it teems with surprising twists and turns, pitfalls and tricky cliffs.

Biographical references also play a central role, like the openness of the many facets with which they encounter the former Berlin wall. But biography and identity are not all that matters, but rather the self-evident certainty with which the quartet drives the various facets of electrified jazz and charges of energy – and also, the exuberant joy of playing is crucial." **Stephan Hentz**

JAZZPODIUM 9/2014: "Andreas Brunn is a dedicated guitarist and composer, an active mediator and reconciler and particularly fond of the East, nota bene Bulgaria. (...) "Perpetuum five" comes as electrified post-bop, grippy, squared, edged, angry, mad, jazzy. Karparov is lively and striking. And there is the uncomfortable "Magic Friday" or the title track, in which Karparov's tendency to occasional lyricism and Brunn's occasional "circuit-with-funny outbursts" provide the contrast that generates voltage and excitement.

Or view the "East Side Gallery"'s story as the story of a quartet who, without doubt, would be able to find a comfortable place for themselves in the world, but instead they use the burden of time and the historical workup and responsibly turn it into harmless music that otherwise must have been uncomfortable to make. And it is just then that they are at their best. And on the double bass, George Donchev still plays exactly the bittersweet mix of boundless joy and all what lurks just beneath that joy." **Alexander Schmitz**

Gaildorfer Rundschau 2014: "... Specialist in infernal rhythms – effusively, intoxicating– that's how the quartet "For Free Hands" presented themselves. Compositions from their new studio-album „Kaleidoscope Freedom" surprised the audience. The polymetric concepts produced an unusual tension in the music. When in "Magic Friday" guitar- and saxophone cadences mixed over a 13/16 beat, the musicians took it like ducks to water. "For Free Hands" left the audience flabbergasted. ..."

Westfälische Zeitung 2013: "... The ensemble FOR FREE HANDS to the known strings virtuoso and composer Andreas Brunn offered the enthusiastic audience with his energetic way of playing a best example of contemporary jazz. In a true "Kaleidoscope Freedom", the quartet showed his view of the world, appeared sound-picturesque images of haunting beauty. ..."

Braunschweiger Zeitung 2012: "... Is For Free Hands a programmatic name? Approximately unrestricted freedom of musical expression? Well, the music brings it to light. For example, "Perpetuum 5". Slow onset, stepping up the pace. Very fast chord changes, in any quarter time, if not on the eighth. Andreas Brunn's guitar solo: In the best John Scofield style, liquid melody lines and rapid chord changes merged. ..."

Modernícolas, Malaga 2011: FOR FREE HANDS @ MALAGA JAZZ FESTIVAL: "... a New Way of understanding the Jazz ... Synergy is the word to define this Berlin quartet. For Free Hands stands for contemporary jazz. Dissonant sounds developed into beautiful melodies that hover over a richly varied rhythm rug. This impressive quartet hit with his music, which united different cultures, all present in their spell ..."

Rhein Press , 2010: "... "For Free Hands" combines searing friction full improvisation with folk, help themselves among rock, pop and classical and suck hungry honey from the avant-garde. With all his senses to their traditional roots, the musicians look far forward. Four musicians from three nations who take at stage, as equal active players, all the freedom in the world to do with their instruments what is possible. Four restless commuters! ..."

Kieler Nachrichten 2009: "The Fantastic Four in the Balkans noise" ... The exceptional saxophonist Karparov understands it in a unique way to combine the traditional, sometimes oriental-style way of playing his home with innovative jazz technique. Band leader Andreas Brunn, alternately armed with 7-string acoustic guitar and electric guitar, calling repeatedly awake memories of John McLaughlin. His play and his talent for composition have a profound and intelligent wit; a Jazz fugue like "Wizards' Cube" finally writes not of itself. ..."

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