

Braskiri – Killing the Mozzarella

CD-REVIEW

Braskiri – Killing the Mozzarella

bezetting: Bert Lochs trompet, flugelhoorn; Steffen Granly tuba; Dirk Balhaus piano, Fender Rhodes; Wim Kegel drums

recorded: 2015, Fattoria Musica, Osnabrück

released: 2015

label: Berthold Records

tracks: 9

total time: 52:04

website: www.braskiri.nl

by: Erno Elsinga



"Craziness" is what they themselves call it, the four gentlemen from Braskiri. Interesting, funny. That is spot on for 'Killing the Mozzarella', the debut album of the new formation of trumpet player Bert Lochs and pianist Dirk Balhaus, on which they brilliantly set the jazz tradition on fire.

Braskiri is the continuation of the Trio Lochs, Balhaus, Herskedal. The latter left the band and was replaced by Steffen Granly, also from Norway. Also drummer Wim Kegel was asked to join the band to create space for the rhythm suppliers Balhaus and Granly, allowing them to shine and groove.

They are definitely clever choices. Granly is passionately grooving, wandering lyrically and lonely, or pumping happily as if a brass band marches into Lochs' compositions. Also Lochs, who is not ashamed to conjure dirty patterns out of his trumpet, mostly impresses with his melodic, lyrical lines on top of the uncommon rhythmic structures, which are freely balanced by drummer Wim Kegel. Balhaus' piano playing supports, connects and alienates, rooted in traditional as well as free playing, like in 'Uncloud'.

The power of Braskiri lies in the interaction, where the law of freedom rules and a bundling of wacky ideas and raw energy constantly comes up with new surprises. Lochs, Balhaus, Kegel and Granly are highly skilled instrumentalists who tease and chase each other, but who are also able to caress, like in the beautiful 'Elegy', where the Norwegian sings through his tuba while playing root notes which makes the brass sound like a didgeridoo. Craziness.