

ACT**MATTHIAS SCHRIEFL****SHREEFPUNK
PLUS STRINGS****ACT 9657-2**

LC 07644

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Jazz, punk, and strings thrown in for the bargain - who on earth would dream up something like this? Matthias Schriefl: A young musician from the Allgäu, who has brought us all kinds of weird and wonderful ideas. The nice thing is: His ideas are infectious; each of his concerts is an inspiring event.

Schriefl is a mere 25 years old, and yet the list of his awards and credits is amazing. He has shared the stage with the most successful international jazz musicians, and along with numerous young-talent awards, he is now receiving similar recognition in the grown-up leagues. One example is the renowned WDR jazz prize for improvisation. "This is no surprise to insiders," says Reiner Brückner in the magazine WDR-Print, "for although he is still in his mid twenties, he has an instrumental control comparable to the old masters: He has a phenomenal range and chops, his talent as an improviser is thrilling, and his arrangements are no less original than his playing". Yet, Schriefl's energy and playfulness betray his age – in a most refreshing way.

"I'm not afraid of simplicity, just as I don't fear complexity", Schriefl summarises the motto of his new recording, the ACT-debut *Shreefpunk plus Strings* (ACT 9657-2). The CD offers daredevil experimental jazz that in no way sounds clean or intellectual. The music conveys passion and humour and allows surprisingly outrageous outbursts.

"Matthias is crazy enough to use ideas that others musicians would never dare to", says professor Andy Haderer, lead trumpet player with the WDR, about his former student. "Not only does he have unusual ideas, he has the technique to translate them into music. Besides, he knows a lot about music: He moves with ease in all styles of jazz, and knows classical and Latin-American music really well." Despite this encyclopaedic knowledge, Schriefl's compositions never sound like theoretical constructs. They always retain a real-world inspiration. In "Köln-Kuddelmuddel" he happily portrays his adopted home town, "Michael's Flat" is dedicated to his Amsterdam friend's messy pad, a tender ode flatteringly describes Hanna's hair (Hanna-the bass player's sister), there is an ironic-apocalyptic portrait of the Bavarian ignorance about the hole in the ozone layer, and "Das was hinten rauskommt" is a tribute to just that: the stuff that comes out at the back.

Besides Schriefl, *Shreefpunk* consists of three young virtuosos, all with international experience. Johannes Behr, Jens Düppe and Robert Landfermann all live in Cologne like Schriefl himself. They have all been playing together for years. This band is tight, as quickly becomes evident when listening to the CD! It exudes a kind of quality that cannot be created by freelance session players; it is the result of a musical friendship with long days of rehearsal with nobody checking their watches.

***Shreefpunk* minus the strings is a live band**. This is not to say that the strings are just used as background sweetening on the CD. In extended passages they make up the rhythmic foundation, they enhance Schriefl's ideas by adding an aura of contemporary *legit* music, or play Schriefl's musical pranks like playing some Viennese *Coffeehouse-music* in the midst of an avant-garde storm. The four strings (Gerdur Gunnarsdóttir, Christine Rox, Stephan Blaumer, Daniel Raabe - each of them hold jobs in the best Cologne orchestras) have quite a bit of experience playing jazz. Thus, they create a solid groove even in the most complex rhythms.

The disc also features Schriefl's multi-ponic playing, next to his comic talent, a distinguishing trait of the young trumpet player. "He is the BEST trumpet player I have heard using multi-phonics. (I should get lessons from this kid!)", says trumpet legend Bobby Shew.

***Shreefpunk plus Strings* was recorded using valuable old valve- and ribbon microphones**, mixed on an analogue board and mastered to half-inch tape. The actual sound of the CD is a gem in itself – much warmer than the sterile standard of today's studio productions.

***Shreefpunk plus Strings* is the eighth album** in the series YOUNG GERMAN JAZZ: Another glittering proof of the vitality of the young German jazz scene!

ACT**MATTHIAS SCHRIEFL****The CD:**

Matthias Schriefl – Shreefpunk plus Strings – ACT 9657-2 – LC 07644

Line Up:

Matthias Schriefl - trumpet & flugelhorn
 Johannes Behr - guitars
 Robert Landfermann - bass
 Jens Düppe - drums
 Strings: Gerður Gunnarsdóttir – violin, Christine Rox - violin
 Stephan Blaumer – viola, Daniel Raabe – cello

Tracks:

- 1 Köln Kuddelmuddel 5:15
- 2 Michael´s Flat 8:54
- 3 Hannas Haar 4:47
- 4 Ozonloch, I hob no koans gseng! 5:34
- 5 Danke 3:16
- 6 Aua! 5:00
- 7 Vertrauen 8:56
- 8 Liebe 5:06
- 9 Das was hinten rauskommt 8:54

Recorded at Hansahaus-Studios in Bonn, on November 7-10, 2006 by Oliver Bergner.
 Mixed at Soundgarden Hamburg on November 13-18, 2006 by Oliver Bergner. Mastered at Soundgarden Hamburg
 on November 18, 2006 by Chris v. Rautenkranz.

More Young German Jazz on ACT:

ACT 9656-2	Berlin Calling	Carsten Daerr & Daniel Erdmann
ACT 9655-2	[em] II	[em] Wollny / Kruse / Schaefer
ACT 9654-2	Remember Chet	Julian & Roman Wasserfuhr
ACT 9653-2	Germany 12 Points	Daerr / Sieverts / Jütte
ACT 9652-2	Great German Songbook	Young Friends
ACT 9651-2	Blaue Augen	jazzIndeed feat. Michael Schiefel
ACT 9650-2	Call it [em]	[em] Wollny / Kruse / Schaefer

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