



Jazzsick Records 5168 JS - LC 11708

Jazz goes Rock goes Prog goes Electronics

Yabbalaga is the name of the new project by Cologne saxophonist **Stephan Mattner**. Together with bassist **Sebastian Räter** and drummer **Ralf Gessler** he presents eight exciting pieces on *Creatures*, which are far away from any pigeonhole thinking. Sometimes more jazzy („*The Engineer*“, „*The Deconstructor*“, „*The Breeder*“, „*The Builder*“), then more rock-oriented („*The Messenger*“), the prog-rock oriented track „*The Diva*“ also sets new standards in this metier with this instrumentation, electro beats („*The Machine*“) and house soundscapes („*The Beast*“) round off the groovy trip through Yabbalaga's musical world.

The loops were recorded in advance with flute, clarinet and soprano sax, partly edited and are played back to live music. This creates a powerful construct which can be accompanied by coincidences in a clear structure.

Stephan Mattner studied classical saxophone and instrumental pedagogy at the Musikhochschule Detmold/Dortmund and jazz saxophone at the Folkwanghochschule Essen with Prof. Hugo Read and Matthias Nadolny. Concerts have taken him throughout Europe and Australia with a wide variety of formations and musicians.

Sebastian Räter was born in Hamburg and has been in the middle of the Cologne jazz scene for 20 years now, in which he plays very presently. He has played with (almost) all local colleagues of modern jazz and numerous musicians from Düsseldorf, Essen and the Ruhr area, such as Nils Wogram, Jonas Burgwinkel and Niels Klein, Simon Nabatov, Angelika Niescier and many others.

After various workshops and lessons with Wolfgang Haffner, Gerry Hemingway, Hiram Mutschler, Adam Nussbaum, Tom Rainey, John Riley, Chad Wackerman and Dave Weckl, **Ralf Gessler** studied jazz drums at the Musikhochschule Köln with Michael Küttner and Keith Copeland. Graduated with top marks.

Stephan Mattner

(tenor sax, computer, keyboard, flute, clarinet, soprano-sax, composition and concept)

Sebastian Räter

(el. bass)

Ralf Gessler

(drums)

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