



TUBES AND WIRES
Niels Klein
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BIOGRAPHY

Niels Klein – Saxophone, Woodwinds, Composition

Niels Klein is said to be one of the most distinguished and prominent young musicians of Germany's current jazz scene. As a saxophone and woodwinds player, he already worked with Peter Erskine, Vince Mendoza, Nils Worgam and many others. In addition to his sideman qualities, he tread the boards of many large national and international festivals, like e.g. the Jazzfestival Berlin, Jazzbaltica in Salza, Moers Festival or the Copenhagen Jazz Festival, among others.

Jazz orchestra, big ensembles or exceptional projects – Niels Klein regularly caused an omnipresent stir of interest for his compositions for these kind of formats. In 2008 he was composer & conductor of the European Jazz

Orchestra during an extensive tour through Europe. Following these experiences, he recently worked as guest-composer and conductor for the NDR BigBand, the BuJazzO (Bundesjugend Jazzorchester), the Lucerne Jazz Orchestra, the Jugendjazzorchester Berlin as well as with the BigBands and the musical academies of Cologne and Hannover.

Exceptional compositions seem to be a recurring theme throughout the artistic oeuvre of Niels Klein – he created missionary works for the Bundesjugendorchester, the Metropole Orchestra Hilversum, the EOS Chamber Orchestra Cologne as well as chamber music for different ensembles. Klein's composition „Refractions for Orchestra“ was premièred at the Berliner Konzerthaus, conducted by Dennis Russel Davies – to be awarded with the European Composer Award by the city of Berlin shortly after.

Niels Klein continued to receive different awards and honors for his compositions and improvisation as for example the WDR-Jazzpreis in 2011 for jazz composition, the NRW promotion prize 2004 or the promotion prize by the city of Cologne in 2005.

Four albums have been released under his own name: „Niels Klein Trio“ (2004), „Niels Klein Tentett“ (2007), „Rise“ by Niels Klein Quartett (2012) and the ECHO Jazz awarded album „Tubes and Wires“ (2014) by his current quartet Tubes and Wires – where he combines and works electrified woodwinds and analogue synthesizers within complex and outstanding compositions that result in science-fiction-like soundscapes. In addition to this quartet, he also maintains a large ensemble called LOOM which merges chamber musical influences with the artistic ideal of orchestral Cool Jazz, translating well known values into our modern times.

As a sideman he is regularly working with Pablo Held's GLOW, Jonas Burgwinkel Source Direct, the Frank Wingold Quartett and many others.

Since 2009, Niels Klein is a professor for jazz composition and jazz theory at the musical academy's institute of music of Osnabrück. Together with Prof. Jiggs Whigham he forms the new and constant leadership team of the BuJazzO – since 2011. Klein is a founding member of the jazz collective KLAENG from Cologne which is enriching the jazzscene of the city with uncountable campaigns, events and festivals.

The main imprint of Klein's music is embodied by striving to position itself in the „here and now“ – to draw inspiration from different musical sources and influences without any fear of overstepping stylistic boundaries. Whether its about concepts of orchestration from modern contemporary music, electro-influenced beats coming also from the context of modern, alternative rock-oriented music as well as all different types and varieties of jazz stilistics – all these multi-faceted elements are merged with ease and piece together a homogenous puzzle of the bigger picture of Klein's exceptional style.

When reviewing a concert of the European Jazz Orchestra with Klein's compositions, the Deutschlandfunk mentioned:

„...Ingeniously interwoven harmonies, precisely spun textures of tone, dynamic parts of atmospherical tension ranging between hypnotic melodics and pulsating rhythmical structure – such sounds have rarely been presented by a BigBand! With his irisident lines of sound and his arrangements called „Soundscapes“, the saxophonist from Cologne created moments of surprise without losing himself in reclusive musical mannerisms. On the contrary: The concert of the European Jazz Orchestra 2008 in the grand broadcasting hall of the WDR turned into a jazz-musical revelation for body and soul.“

PRESSQUOTES ABOUT „TUBES & WIRES“

„ Closer to Nirvana and Kraftwerk than related to traditional blue notes: With „Tubes And Wires“, Niels Klein blows up terms and structures of Jazz. [...] With using the dynamics of jazzmusicians, Tubes and Wires create a circle of feedback of call and response, action and reaction which is setting free an energy that keeps on transporting them from one planet to the next one. Into the rocks and cliffs, into the desert – wherever the sound leads the way.“

DIE ZEIT

If needed, feel free to request more quotes from: DIE WELT, JAZZ THING, JAZZ'N'MORE, JAZZPODIUM, CONCERTO