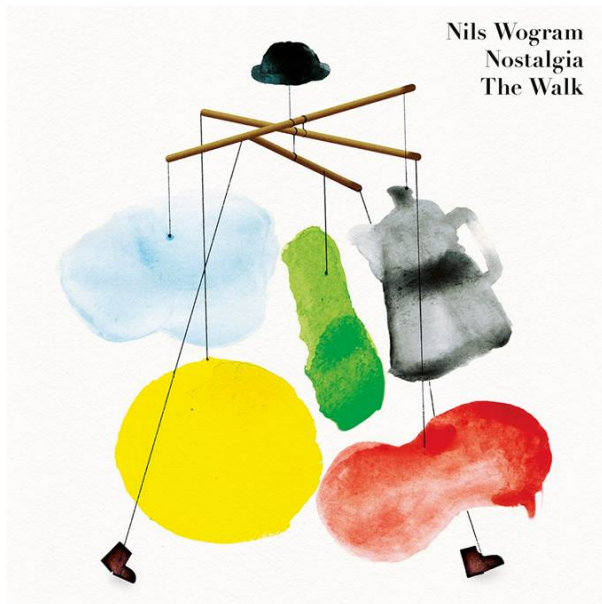




THE WALK

NILS WOGRAM NOSTALGIA

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NILS WOGRAM NOSTALGIA - THE WALK

Nomen est Omen. The new album by Nils Wograms is entitled “The Walk”. And that's exactly how the music begins. Trombonist Nils Wogram, organist Arno Krijger and drummer Dejan Terzić march off together. They become tour guides, simply taking their listeners with them with their gripping groove. No subtext, no false bottom. Off they go. But as early as the second track, “Love”, it becomes clear that this journey will not be as straightforward and focused as the opener might have suggested. Each of these tracks describes a station along the way which, on the one hand, is independent of all the other stations and yet makes

sense as part of the overall journey.

In other words, “The Walk” is a very stringent album in its choice of means, but in terms of the diversity of its expressive possibilities, it is a panorama that fans out further song by song. Wogram, Krijger and Terzić work with subtle changes of mood. Ultimately, it is a journey from the outside in. The self-confident departure into the world gives way to a hyper-sensitive walk into the unknown and a journey of discovery into the individual and collective inner life. So it is not about the walk as such, but about what happens to people on this journey. “The Walk” documents a process of letting go and internalizing. The physicality of the outer world unites with the spirituality of inner projection.

Accompanying this process, a kind of paradigm shift takes place over the course of the album. At the beginning, the trombone is still very much in the foreground and is danced around by the organ, but as the album progresses, the psychedelic undertone of Arno Krijger's organ increasingly takes center stage. The passionate sound psychologist Arno Krijger does not come from the piano, but is exclusively connected to the organ's two-dimensional and spatial possibilities. For Wogram, this directional decision in favor of the organ is a central moment of his motivation. “One of the reasons I founded this trio was precisely because of the possibilities of how the trombone can be embedded in the sound of the organ. Both instruments flow into each other and support each other.”

We don't want to lose sight of Dejan Terzić. When Wogram and Krijger set off together and negotiate the direction and destination with their instruments, the drummer is the path. Without this moderator between trombone and organ, this walk would not be possible in its present form. Terzić unobtrusively brings his two instruments together, anticipates bends and forks in the road, grounds the ground, opens up spaces and perspectives and, last but not least, defines the pace.

The band name Nostalgia also suggests an association with the film of the same name by Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky. It was the great symbolist's penultimate film and one of his best. More than any of the trio's previous albums, "The Walk" is reminiscent of the inner monologue of Tarkovsky's great visual epic. Nils Wogram makes no secret of the fact that Tarkovsky influenced him. "Apart from the fact that I like many of his films, I have also studied his way of working and seeing things. Tarkowski was once asked what he would recommend to younger filmmakers. He replied, do something that has to do with you, your life, your everyday life and your personality. That influenced me a lot. When parallels are drawn between my music and Tarkovsky's film, it's a sign for me that I'm getting a little closer to this postulate. For me, it's more and more about this personal sound. I no longer want to go in search of concepts, even if they sometimes present themselves, but to express what I myself have to say. It wasn't a plan to relate myself to this movie, but there is a certain logic to it."

Nils Wogram has many projects, but only his one voice. He no longer wants to pretend, but to express himself in the purest version of himself, just like Tarkowski. In this respect, it is no wonder that despite the different approaches to individual bands such as Root 70, the Vertigo Trombone Quartet or Nostalgia, there are always correlations between the individual albums over a certain period of time. In a way, "The Walk" is the twin brother of the last Root 70 release "The Pristine Sound Of Root 70". "There are certain phases in which you concentrate on certain aspects," confirms Nils Wogram. Although these similarities between the two records are not forced, they are consciously allowed. After all, it is about people who manifest themselves with their voice. Why would you need a voice if you weren't recognizable with it? "In the course of my musical journey, I had to learn that many things take on a life of their own in the musical process. A good realization of the best concept becomes uninteresting as soon as there is a lack of depth." Of course, this also applies to the musicians with whom a composer and visionary like Nils Wogram works. Arno Krijger and Dejan Terzić have the courage to interpret Wogram's ideas in their own way, and the trombonist lets them do so.

Control is good, trust is better. In short, Nils Wogram is on the walk. He shows his listeners a path without having to follow it himself with ultimate consistency. The band sets off together, the listeners have to find the destination themselves. It may sound like a paradox, because every album by Wogram was and is a Nils Wogram album, and yet on every new record by the trombonist you get more Nils Wogram than before. And this is exactly what applies to such a tried and tested formation as Nostalgia, which reaches its essence on "The Walk". A journey that is certainly far from over!

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