

## PIANIST BOELO KLAT SAYS GOODBYE TO 'THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE'

Contrary to what has now become the usual practice, the cd 'Eyeopener' by Klatwerk3 contains a comprehensive booklet. On reading through the booklet you will of course be manoeuvred in a certain direction. But anyone who can summon up the patience to listen to this remarkable cd by pianist Boelo Klat without first reading the information, will come in for some wonderful surprises. And come to the conclusion that the hitherto little known Boelo Klat is a musician who is not to be underestimated.

In any event, musicians - certainly those engaged in improvisational music - should exploit two qualities to the full: instinct and intuition. Intuition will be best suited – let's keep to pianists for the moment – to classical performers. Indeed, they must keep to the score, but they are at liberty to put their own interpretation into the notes. Instinct, on the other hand, is something we would sooner ascribe to improvisational musicians: only at the moment they touch a key do they decide which note will follow.

Of course, it could be that musicians use both instinct and intuition as implements. One man who is definitely gifted in that way, is the pianist Boelo Klat from Groningen. His cd **Eyeopener** is the direct outcome of what is going on in his head and is passed on to his hands. That is obviously not something unique; it's what happens to any musician. But Boelo Klat has put his instinct at the service of his intuition and in so doing he has achieved remarkable results.

It follows that **Eyeopener** cannot be classified under a single heading. All sorts of music pass by: light music, a march, melodious musings, harmonious intro's, free improvisations and a lot of good stuff from modal jazz. But what's more: you will hear it played as you would want it to be played. Boelo Klat is a kind of wizard, turning suggestions into reality. Who manages to create a make-believe world, offering insights you would not have thought possible. All of which has to do with the twin qualities instinct-intuition, which immerse the music in an air of casualness, as if the pianist has cast aside all the rules of music and is simply doing his own thing. And so defining his own playing, his own sequence, his own identity.

That is the way – in fact the only way – to listen to Klat's fifteen own pieces and arrangements on **Eyeopener**. Then those surprises I mentioned in the introduction will become apparent as a matter of course. The melting pot of impressions, of styles that Boelo Klat effortlessly handles and to which he gives voice, evoke a sense of parting. Of leaving behind all the good stuff you've heard before in your life, stuff that was squeezed into a straitjacket because 'that's how it should be done'. Boelo Klat has said goodbye to all that and therein lies the strength of this exceptional cd.

In Ruud Vleij on contrabass and Ancel Klooster on drums and percussion the leader-composer has found worthy teammates. They make Klatwerk3 into a solid and unique entity. One that simply has to play this music, music that you can't leave to anyone else. That goes under the appropriate title of **Eyeopener**.

Then a word about the booklet. Nicely made, with poems to accompany the fifteen pieces. Impressions, as you might call them, that reveal some of the thoughts and ideas of Boelo Klat. Titles such as **Walk Like Monk, Song for my Sister, Money** and **Ibrahim** leave little to the imagination. In each there is something of Boelo Klat. That even goes for **Moon River** by Johnny Mercer and Henri Mancini, arranged by Klat and transformed from croon song to final episode of this remarkable cd **Eyeopener**.

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