



QLUSTER

TASTEN

CD / vinyl (incl. CD) / download
Out: July 10, 2015



The artists: Hans-Joachim Roedelius (Piano), Onnen Bock (Piano), Armin Metz (Piano)
The music: minimalist, spherical sounds by three harmonically complementary grand pianos

Introverted, minimalist “classical” music has reached full bloom in recent years. Devotees of the neo-classical movement, as it has become known, flock to see the likes of Nils Frahm, Olafur Arnalds and Chilly Gonzales. Although “neo” is something of a misnomer. Erik Satie is seen as the progenitor of this style—and rightly so—yet he lived over one hundred years ago. If the current breed of “neo-classicists” have one thing in common, it is that they come from a rock/pop background and their audience is socialized accordingly.

One pioneer of the genre is Hans-Joachim Roedelius. There is little classical music to be found in his backstory as a member of the avant-garde electronic combo Cluster. When he released an album of solo piano (“Like The Whispering Of The Wind”) in 1986, the “neo-classical” designation lay many years ahead in the future. Roedelius has since issued numerous albums on which the piano plays a dominant role, either as a solo instrument or as a component in electronic collaborations, as with Stefan Schneider (To Rococo Rot), for example.

Qluster was undoubtedly the most important collaborative project he was involved in. This was the group’s third incarnation, having been founded under the name of Kluster in 1969 by Roedelius, Dieter Moebius and Conrad Schnitzler. In 1970 they were responsible for two milestones of electronic music. Schnitzler quit Kluster two years later, leaving Roedelius and Moebius to carry on as Cluster. When the duo disbanded in 2010, Roedelius continued to fly the K/Cluster flag, this time as Qluster, joined by the keyboarder and electronic musician Onnen Bock. The duo again became a trio in 2013, when Armin Metz, an adventurous virtuoso on the bass, joined Qluster’s ranks. Metz has earned quite a reputation for his excellent work in world music collaborations.

“Tasten” can conceivably be described as the successor to the 2012 album “Antworten”, on which grand pianos played a similarly significant role. Whilst “Antworten” featured singing bowls, “Tasten” is exclusively a piano work, one which sees the instrument used at times in unconventional, percussive ways, its strings plucked or stroked.

Qluster explore the musical depths of three Steinway concert grands to their fullest potential. Spherical sounds of three overlapping instruments, complete with gentle tones and little melodies, sporadically culminating in impulsive sonic storms. A wonderful piece of neo-classical music by three masters of their art.

Cat no.: BB206
CD: 4015698000474
Indigo: CD 108812

LP: 4015698000481
Indigo: LP 108811

Promotion:

Bureau B
Matthias Kümpflein
Tel. ++49/40/881666-63
matthias@bureau-b.com



Tracklisting:

1. Traum vom Fliegen (3:57)
2. Über den Dächern (6:15)
3. Il Campanile (6:38)
4. Brandung (7:48)
5. Zwischen den Zeilen (4:20)
6. Spiegel im Spiegel (5:56)
7. Spuren im Schnee (4:03)
8. Karussell (5:40)
9. Abends ganz leis (6:12)