

# Henning Sieverts: Blackbird

## (Pirouet Records, PIT 3040)

### Line-up:

Henning Sieverts: bass, cello, composition

Chris Speed: clarinet, tenor saxophone

Johannes Lauer: trombone

Achim Kaufmann: piano

John Hollenbeck: drums

### Press Review on "Henning Sieverts: Blackbird":

# **"Definitely a highlight (4 stars)"** (*The Schallplattenmann*)

# **"It sounds so simple, easy and happy, what Henning Sieverts has devised here** and yet these are very carefully elaborated constructions that follow the principle of symmetry.

Making the compositions swing and buzz at the whim of **strict requirements, this is the art that makes good music great music.**" (*Stefan Hentz, Concerti*)

# **"Blackbird" is nothing less than a great mind game with amazing flying models and designs - it results in a highly sensuous, colourful music** " (*Ralf Dombrowski, Deutschlandfunk*).

# "The amazing thing is that you cannot hear Sieverts' constructed mind work. And this is also due to its grandiose, playful colleagues. A highly musical as well as viable construct." (*Tilman Urbach, Fono Forum*)

# "The five musicians get through the clever compositions of the bandleader without **soloistic vanities, it's the band's sound that counts, not the eccentricity of individuals.** In the wide field between E and U Sieverts clearly occupies a place very close to the E, but he does not forget about humor. A strong performance " (*Jazz Podium*)

# "We are twittering (sincerely yours to Paul Klee), penguins waddle majestically through the boxes, a marabou shows himself forwards and backwards and funny birds are hacking on an E - **Sieverts is an enigmatic jester**" (*Harald Schwiers, Der Kurier*)

# **"Like the birds' chirping in a spring garden,** so easy, diverse, complex and lively is Sieverts' latest coup." (*Tobias Böcker, Jazzzeitung*)

# "A musical ornithology of enormous diversity - a proof that cleverly constructed compositions captivate in an atmospheric way and can also be a lot of fun.

**This music grooves, chirps, trills and shimmers in such a gripping and natural way as only live jazz can do.**

So natural can the seemingly artificial be. And so the musical world of Henning Sieverts comes pretty close to the highly complex real world of birds." (*Bayerischer Rundfunk*)

# "Well-known pieces are plucked rhythmically, keys are swirled and chords are hit upon that there is a real beauty. A most enjoyable act, even witty, academic thinking has been happily outwitted here. (...)

**The musicians are having fun and the audience follows them willingly. "**

*(Rainer Kobe, Badische Zeitung)*

# **"Refined also in the details"** (...) "The result sounds just as sophisticated as lively, varied and suggestive. 5 Stars "*(Norbert Krampf, Journalportal Frankfurt)*

# "On paper, this may be too intellectual, in real life it sounds completely natural and lightweight. **Sieverts succeeds in bridging the gap between intellectual challenge and entertaining pleasure. "Blackbird" is one of the records of the year! "**

*(Oliver Hochkäppel, Süddeutsche Zeitung)*