

Henning Sieverts: Symmetry

(Pirouet Records, PIT 3022)

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: Symmetry":

USA:

"Sieverts' writing is fresh and stylistically unique, interpreted by a stellar quintet. The disc enjoys sitting on the fence between progressive improvisation and modern classical sounds. The unpredictability heard throughout *Symmetry* makes for an enjoyable listen." *(John Barron, All about Jazz – New York)*

„Great new CD, great concept, too“ *(Laurence Donohue-Greene, All about Jazz - New York)*

Several times **„Weekly Top 10“** by the Chicago Jazz Radio WNUR

"The music is hard to explain, since it doesn't sound like anything else I've ever heard. Interesting, different and quite unpredictable" *(Downtown Music Gallery, New York)*

"The music has a clever kind of lightness. The tunes are carefully crafted, light-spirited, joyfully dancing, still offering the musicians the chance to improvise and to do this with sufficient abandon to leave the formal restrictions." *(Stef, Free Jazz)*

Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein:

"A wonderfully relaxing music, balanced, thoughtful and compelling. A captivating album, serious, yet full of musical joy. A symmetry which contains a slope, because form is not the defining law." *(Wolfram Knauer, Jazz Podium)*

"A sensual-rational matter in which discipline and playfulness complement each other in a great way." *(Werner Stiefele, Rondo)*

"Even Johann Sebastian Bach was the best proof that mathematical precision and sensibility are not mutually exclusive. Henning Sieverts also follows this finding consistently. (...) The results are airy, atmospheric miniatures, charming excursions into contemporary music, very different kinds of quick-tempered or elegant dancing jazz pieces." *(Ssirius W.Pakzad, Jazz Thing)*

"What initially sounds quite theoretical, is dissolved in a wonderfully airy manner. This is done by the **fantastic group dynamics**. Contemporary Modern Jazz, which is never boring." (Gert Filtgen, *Image Hifi*)

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*)

"Finest jazz culture, supported by an intelligent concept. (...) **The first set incidentally began exactly at 21:12, the second at 22:22 , If this was no coincidence?**" (Ruedi Ankli, *Basler Zeitung*)

"Musical Palindrome: that sounds quite mathematical, sober and uncaring in theory. But the music includes such dynamics and even emotions so that all scepticism evaporates quickly. Henning Sieverts' arrangements develop swing and groove - and accurately **convey this pleasure of listening that may arise from the often sought and rarely achieved ideal ratio of body and mind in contemporary improvised music.**" (Harald Rehmann, *Deutschlandfunk*)

"An intellectual challenge which Sieverts masters easily.

Smart guys are needed to implement such a concept so that it does not crunch at every turn: John Hollenbeck and Chris Speed are able to do that but also Achim Kaufmann on the piano lets the music swing.

Symmetry is a lot of fun and also puts up pretty. " (Rolf Thomas, *Jazzthetik*)

"Sieverts presents fourteen varied intricate symmetrical showpieces in forward and reverse gears, for which he did not only invent some perfectly fitting titles – from "Top Spot" to "Sum summus mus" or "Luz Azul" – he also presents some highly **atmospheric compositions in which an excellent jazz quintet scrimmages to one's hearts content.**" (Tobias Böcker, *Jazzzeitung*, 4 stars)

"**An offer of reconciliation for people who were at dagger's dawn with mathematics**" (Susanne Breitung, *Rosenheim municipal library*)

An eclectic mix of contemporary jazz and contemporary music. The concept offered **many design variations that clearly stood out from the conventional scheme theme-choruses-theme.**

The compositions constructed by mathematics and geometry were not only determined to the intellect, but could also be **enjoyed emotionally without a calculator**, for virtuosity and creativity combined with refreshing spirit was expressed by all the musicians. " (Richard Precht, *Oberbayerisches Volksblatt*)

"Henning Sieverts **combines in his music constructive seriousness with playful wit**, abstraction with expressivity. The unusual structures of the partly very short pieces encourage the members of Sieverts' Quintett to improvisational digressions that are **free of virtuoso loquacity.**"

(Tom Gsteiger, *St. Galler Tagblatt*)

"Symmetry" in the Top 10 CDs of 2007 (*Zwitschermaschine, Liechtenstein*)