



Pablo Held
Glow II

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Line-Up: Pablo Held (Piano), Robert Landfermann (Bass), Jonas Burgwinkel (Drums)
Henning Sieverts (Bass), Hubert Nuss (Harmonium, Celeste Pocket Organ), Ronny Graupe (Acoustic Guitar), Niels Klein (Tenor-, Soprano Saxophone), Philipp Gropper (Tenor Saxophone), Claus Stötter (Trumpet), John Schröder (Acoustic Guitar), Christian Weidner (Alto Saxophone)

Track-Listing: 1. Terra (ISRC: DE-EN4-17-10201) 2. Pinatubo (ISRC: DE-EN4-17-10202), 3. Smaragd (ISRC: ff.), 4. Longstreth Blues, 5. Tausendschön, 6. Chifre

All compositions by Pablo Held – except track 5 „Tausendschön“ unknown.

Glow II – incandescent explorations

When he recorded Glow with his 10-piece ensemble in 2010, “German piano wonder Pablo Held was only 23 years old..., but he had already earned his place in the pantheon of modern day piano trio leaders... As good as Held's earlier albums are, they don't hold a candle to 'Glow'.” (Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz). Other critics declared that Held had created a “masterpiece” and praised Held for such “enthraling contemporary jazz”. On “Glow II” Held and company continue their incandescent musical explorations.

Glow's core has always been Pablo's trio, bassist **Robert Landfermann** and drummer **Jonas Burgwinkel**. Since 2005 they have been an integral part of his musical concepts. Held saw Glow as “a way to put the trio into a different context, where we could be inspired and challenged by some of our favorite musicians.” Those “favorite musicians” include some of the major German players on the international scene. Keyboardist **Hubert Nuss**, bassist/cellist **Henning Sieverts**, and saxophonist **Niels Klein** participated on the first Glow. Nuss, Sieverts, Landfermann, as well as Glow II's guitarist **Ronny Graupe** and alto saxophonist **Christian Weidner** are also PIRQUET recording artists.

About the music, Pablo says, “I only write sketches for this band. What I bring to these musicians is more like a toolbox for them to fool around with. I trust the musical judgement of these guys so much, that I don't want to tell them what to play. Compared to GLOW I, I'd like

to think that the music became a little looser and free-flowing.”

There are moments of ecstatic catharsis in this live version of TERRA. When he first composed the piece, Pablo felt it “...sounded primordial, like life itself, something that surpasses musical rules and can’t be explained. Now I try to go for this every time I write and play.”

After he was allowed to use Emil Schumacher’s amazing painting PINATUBO for their TRIO LIVE CD, wanted to write a soundtrack to the painting as a „Thank You“. The composition consists of two sections: a set of chords continually repeated, and the melody that can be played over the chords whenever the musician chooses. “It repeats without it sounding like repetition, conveying the impression of constant change.”

There’s a reverberating crystalline sound and feel to SMARAGD. Held wrote the piece “after having a dream about walking through a huge underground cave filled with emeralds. I still vividly remember their glowing quality. Playing this piece helps me return to this wonderful imaginary place.”

Held explains that the serene LONGSTRETH BLUES “...is a tribute to Dave Longstreth, the founder of one of my all-time favorite bands, Dirty Projectors. Here I tried to apply some of the things I learned from their music.”

Held recounts that, “After my grandmother passed away three years ago, I found a box of old cassettes my sisters and I listened to when we visited my grandparents. Among these tapes was an old German radio play of „The Beauty and the Beast“. One of the pieces, TAUSENDSCHÖN, had mysterious aura that frightened me. Listening to it again after all these years had the same strong effect as it did when I was a child: I was scared! I transcribed it and brought it to the studio. It turns out that the theme easily leads into free exploration!”

Held says that Glow has played CHIFFRE on most of the gigs they’ve played since 2011. This live recording “...shows how these great musicians can take a few written lines and a groove and take the music to places I couldn’t have imagined himself. This is why I love this band; it takes me to new places, and the best thing is, I can just sit back and listen to my friends invent great musical stories in the moment!”

Pablo Held is available for interviews.

For general requests, please contact us!

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