

Swiss drumming prodigy with his band Lucas Niggli's Big Zoom

Lucas Niggli, drummer, composer and bandleader takes his time (usually about three years) for the production of a CD. In concert, his quintet Big Zoom is bubbling over with ideas, and yet everything is written out in detail.

It's not only the drummer's explosive live-wire drum playing which makes this band one of the most exciting stage acts in contemporary European jazz. However, jazz is just one of four sources. Simultaneously, Lucas Niggli, who was born in Cameroun, is interested in exploring the spirit of contemporary classical music. A further well of inspiration is rock and even heavy metal, whose drummers Niggli admires without restriction. Since his first live appearance in Moers, Niggli has in the meantime practically become a permanent "artist in residence". This fact has opened up the curtain for an extraordinary music scene, which in Switzerland feeds on a vibrating mixture of influences and creative minds.

In this Swiss scene, Lucas Niggli is tirelessly committed to give new talents a spotlight and to make such encounters possible. His band "Big Zoom", however, rather than on spontaneous encounters, puts the emphasis on a solid band chemistry which has been developed and refined in years of playing live. Part of it is Nils Wolgram, an exceptional young German trombone player, who lives in Switzerland, as well as the outstanding Swiss clarinet player Claudio Puntin. Together with guitarist Philipp Schaufelberger and bassist Peter Herbert, they have all found a musical home in the Big Zoom quintet.

Latest CD releases:

Lucas Niggli Zoom Rough Ride ^ (Intakt 2003)

Lucas Niggli Big Zoom ^ Big Ball ^ (Intakt 2003)