



Social Music / Soul Jazz

Today, people tend to forget that jazz is not only a unique art form, but also a social music. This social aspect comes to the fore especially where it is not about epochal innovations or daring experiments, but about providing musical soul food to a "neighborhood audience." That's why people like to talk about soul jazz in this context.

The Hammond organ is a very special instrument: with its wonder bag sounds and cheerfully bubbling bass runs, it is impossible to imagine Soul Jazz without it. With ROOT AREA, saxophonist Christoph Grab presents his equally contemporary and timeless version of soul jazz including Hammond power.

The core of ROOT AREA is formed by Grab, Hammond specialist Marcel Thomi and drummer Elmar Frey - a cooking trio that has been successfully touring for several years. Now the next stage is being ignited: With a repertoire consisting of original compositions (8 x Grab, 1 x Frey) and with exquisite saxophone support by Nicole Johänntgen and Victoria Mozalevskaya. Thanks to the trio's long-term experience and Johänntgen's and Mozalevskaya's quick grasp and impressive improvisational spontaneity, it only took one day to record ROOT AREA's debut album.

With his new compositions Grab traces his musical roots back to the Swiss folk music ("Meiteli wänn du witt go tanze") and thus to his childhood, "Abyss" has a jamesbondy melody, "Harlequin" evokes great emotions with its combination of emphasis and melancholy. The piece "In Communion" is dedicated to Krishnamurti and has a spiritual touch, which is reinforced by the "churchy" sound of the organ. The title track has a second-line groove that immediately makes you wanna dance and that hardly is done better in New Orleans. And in his track "We're Coming to

Town", drummer Frey develops a wonderful swing drive, which is followed up in the closing big-band-like composition "Love in the Mist".

In the future, ROOT AREA's energy and joy of playing will certainly ensure a good atmosphere and glowing ears in many different neighbourhoods.

Line-up:

Christoph Grab tenor /soprano saxophone

Nicole Johaentgen alto saxophone

Marcel Thomi hammond organ

Elmar Frey drums

Special guest:

Victoria Mozalevskaya tenor saxophone

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More infos, sounds, pictures:

<https://www.christophgrab.com/de/bands/root-area>

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