

# Christoph Grab's REFLECTIONS

New Album: "Oneness" (Lamento Rec)



Christoph Grab saxes, Lukas Thoeni trumpet, Andreas Tschopp trombone,  
Bänz Oester bass, Pius Baschnagel drums

"This tension between complexity, archaism and flowing rhythm, the antagonism between an avant-garde and a traditional aspect of jazz...(…) Pinnacle, in the solo flights of all participants as well as in the arranged passages." (Swiss jazz critic Peter Rüedi about REFLECTIONS)

The Swiss Jazz Award 2023 winner Christoph Grab presents with his excellent REFLECTIONS ensemble his latest work: "Oneness" (Lamento Rec).

International critics were full of praise for the last album "Live at Haberhaus" (Lamento Rec) and it was then also awarded the coveted "Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik" in 2020. With "Live at Haberhaus" REFLECTIONS set the bar very high for a follow-up album and therefore took their time with it. The band has played many concerts and has grown together even more. Yes, they have become such a single organism when playing together that this

has become the unique selling point of this band, which sets them apart from other bands in this style. For this reason the new album is also called "Oneness". Being at one with the world, being able to accept new/foreign things, empathy - these are important qualities in this day and age of bitter trench warfare, both on the Internet and in the real world. Communicative music like jazz, which demands decisions from all participants every second, where it is always about remaining oneself and yet seeing oneself as part of the whole, can be a model for constructive interaction with each other.

The basis for the music of "Oneness" are again compositions by Thelonious Monk, to which Christoph Grab gives his own twist through his arrangements to inspire and lead the band out of the familiar. They serve as the foundation and springboards for the collective improvisations and daily reinvention of the music at the concerts. "Oneness" has become a lively, inspired album and shows that new and unheard-of things can also be created on the basis of iconic material from jazz history.

### The new Album "Oneness" (Lamento Rec, 2024)



## "Live at Haberhaus" (Lamento Records, 2020)



Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik 2020!

"...This is based not only on Grab's refined arrangements, but also on the band's actions with the protagonists' soloistic flood of ideas." (Highest rating \*\*\*\*\*, "Fono Forum" magazine, March 2020)

"Most fascinating (...) Even if you have heard "Round Midnight" a hundred times: You have never heard it in this pasty grace. Formidable!" (Highest rating \*\*\*\*\*, NZZ am Sonntag 9.2.2020)

"Stretching, compressing, rhythm changes, sometimes very free handling of harmony and meter actually allow new things to emerge from tradition in this spontaneous live situation." (\*\*\*\*, the Austrian magazine "Concerto" 1/2020) "...Christoph Grab showed himself in his quintet as an absolutely accomplished sound architect, a regular tailor for Monk arrangements. Most striking were the clear structures that Reflections formed from the specifications. Sound surfaces were layered on top of each other, the themes were distributed among the individual musicians, it was sometimes like an instrumental jigsaw puzzle that only complemented and came together in the minds of the audience. In this way, the tension and complexity of the specifications were preserved, the eccentricity of their creator was preserved, the contrast between dissonance and poetry was widely



explored." (German jazz publicist Jörg Konrad on a concert by REFLECTIONS in Munich, 5/21/2022)

"The live recording from the Haberhaus in Schaffhausen, released on CD, not only shows new interpretations of well-known standards, but also gives deep insights into the work of the well-rehearsed troupe around the versatile saxophonist." (Highest rating \*\*\*\*\*, Jazz'n'more 1/2020)

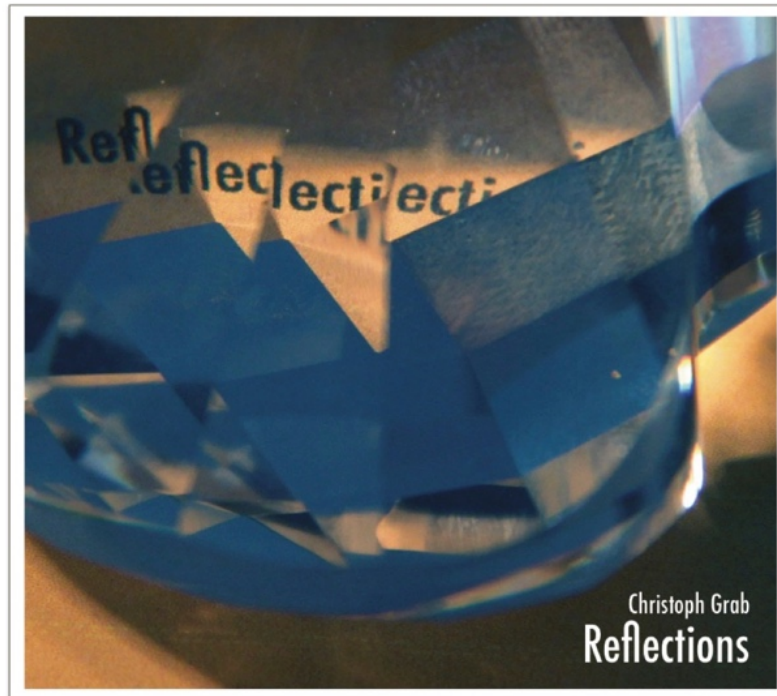
"Inner depth, humor, lightness. (...) The playfulness - his reflections seem lively and inviting, which is certainly also due to the interaction in the band, who throw their ideas back and forth so quickly that the image of ball-playing children and their laughter imposes itself. Everyone is on equal footing. Above all, it's fun!" (Schaffhauser Nachrichten, 27.1.2020)

"Thanks to the polyphony, Monk's idiosyncratic piano chords, translated into wind sound, come to new life. (...) Grab thereby isolates individual motifs, thinks them further in an original way, puts the pieces together differently and creates springboards for improvisations." (Jazzthetik 3/4 2020)



The first Album:

## Christoph Grab "Reflections" (Lamento Records, 2017)



The trio's 2017 studio album "Reflections" also received very positive reviews from the international press:

"...a respectful exploration of Monk's repertoire on the one hand, a bouncy, topical album on the other"(Jazzthetik).

"The album convinces with empathy, swing and drive. And Christoph Grab's sound palette and art of phrasing are a joy in themselves." (NZZ am Sonntag)

"With this band, the motto is clearly: vitality instead of uptightness! REFLECTIONS neither play themselves as grail keepers nor as concept artists, but set out on the hunt for the fulfilled moment on the basis of jazz virtues (willingness to take risks, interactive joy of playing, flow) and give us many wonderful Monk moments in the process." (Tom Gsteiger)

"Thus the trio acts with great understanding among themselves and shows joy of playing and innovation."(musikansich.de)

More Infos/Sound/Videos/Pics: <https://www.christophgrab.com/de/bands/reflections>

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