



## **Soleil Niklasson Quintet**

**-Soulful Jazz-**

Soleil Niklasson, who has taken the hearts of jazz lovers by storm with her wonderful voice and impressive charisma, presents her new CD "RISE" together with her first-class quintet. This outstanding collection of exclusively original compositions, which critics are already hailing as potential new standards of the jazz scene, offers an extraordinary experience. The performance promises an unforgettable evening in the world of jazz.

Soleil Niklasson, born in Chicago and raised in Los Angeles, brings with her a remarkable musical history. At a young age she performed with the legendary Oscar Brown Jr. and later shared the stage with greats like Stan Getz, Billy Preston and Linda Hopkins. Their music is not only a feast for the ears, but also a journey for the soul. With her motto – "My songs are food for the heart and fuel for the soul" – she wants to emotionally touch and inspire the audience.

The Soleil Niklasson Quintet's repertoire covers a wide spectrum: from rousing jazz and Latin pieces to soulful ballads and captivating gospel and soul numbers. Each piece is performed by Soleil and her talented musicians with a passion that captivates the audience. Her voice is a combination of warmth, power and irrepressible energy - an authentic experience that will stay in your memory for a long time.

**Soleil Niklasson - vocal**

**Andreas Laux – saxophone**

**Sven Bergmann – piano**

**Caspar van Meel – bass**

**Andreas Griefingholt – drums**

[www.soleilniklassonquintet.com](http://www.soleilniklassonquintet.com)

*(...) Soleil Niklasson is already one of the great singers of the...  
Jazz, blues and soul (...) (Westfälische Nachrichten)*

*(...) Soleil Niklasson has one of the most captivating jazz/soul voices in a long time!(...)  
(acoustic guitar)*

*(...) The vocalist, who was born in Chicago and grew up in Los Angeles, impresses with a  
sensational bluesy-soul voice (...) she is stylish, swinging, elegant and groovy - depending  
on the coloring of the respective song. (concert)*

*(...) This is definitely a wonderful album with a great spirit and a lot of talented musicians. I  
just love Soleil's warm voice (...) (Jazz-fun.de)*

## Video links:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfWcZDRB3ws&list=RDMM&start\\_radio=1&t=6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfWcZDRB3ws&list=RDMM&start_radio=1&t=6s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2zQsBYpK1A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtLpkLijEm0&t=1s>

[Soleil Niklasson Quintet CD "RISE" Trailer 1](#)

## Musicians

### Andreas Laux - sax

Andreas Laux studied at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg with Herb Geller and Dieter Glawischnig and with Hugo Read at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen. In addition to regional jazz awards ("Jugend jazzt" 1991, "Cool Water Jazzwettbewerb" 1993) Andreas Laux was awarded the internationally recognized Folkwang Prize in the Jazz category in 1998.

He played in many different ensembles, from small ensembles such as the duet with his wife Carola Laux or the duet with the Finnish accordionist Janne Rättyä, to large ensembles such as the Big Band under the direction of Prof. Peter Herborn. In addition to his work as a jazz musician, he has also made a name for himself in classical music as well as in the Christian music scene. He toured with various bands around the world and took part in numerous CD and musical productions.

## Sven Bergmann - p

Sven Bergmann studied at the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen, at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen and at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig with Richie Beirach. He also received lessons from Jasper van't Hof. He is a graduated pianist and certified concert pianist and composer, each with a focus on jazz.

Sven Bergmann plays in various jazz bands, but is also active in other musical fields, such as the musical director of the theater "die baustelle" in Cologne, as one of the heads of the film music project "Bergmann & Bartkowski." Several studio recordings have been released on CD so far, including the much acclaimed albums "Mosaics" and "Seasons" by his trio and quartet. He played or recorded u. a. with: Tom Arthurs, Bill Elgart, Stefan Werni, Matthias Bergmann, Jan by Klewitz and Pepe Berns. In 2013/14, Sven Bergmann received funding for his artistic work from the Kultursekretariat NRW.

## Caspar van Meel - b

Caspar van Meel is a Dutch bassist, arranger and composer living in Germany. Before devoting himself entirely to music, van Meel obtained a Master of Arts & Culture with a focus on philosophy at the University of Maastricht (NL). At the same time he studied at the Maastricht Conservatory with Jan van de Boomen and the classical bassist Carol Hart (Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra). After that, van Meel went to Essen to study at Folkwang University with bassist of the WDR big band John Goldsby and to do his master's degree in music. In 2014, he received a scholarship from the GVL to take part in the renowned "Workshop for Jazz and Creative Music" at the Banff Centre in Canada.

He worked with Steve Coleman, Vijay Iyer, Jeff Tain Watts, Reggie Workman and Marcus Gilmore.

Over the years he has won numerous awards. As a bandleader of his own quintet, he is a prizewinner of the Future Sound Competition as well as the Jazz Preis Ruhr. As co-leader of the band Trigonon, he was awarded the Jazzwerkruhr Prize, and with Mike Roelofs Band he reached the final of the Dutch Jazz Competition. Caspar van Meel has worked with the WDR Big Band, Philip Catherine, Götz Alsman and Gerd Dudek, among others, and can look back on numerous international tours, concerts and festivals such as the North Sea Jazz Festival, the WDR Jazz Night and the Leverkusener Jazztage.

## Andreas Griefingholt - dr

Andreas Griefingholt, born in Osnabrück/Germany, where he received a classical drum training, then studied drumming at the Folkwang University in Essen and in New York with John Riley, Ralph Peterson, Gene Jackson and Tom Rainy. He lived a year in New York as a musician and had a rich musical experience there. He has worked with Herb Geller, Gerd Dudek, Gunther Hampel, Udo Lindenberg, Roger Cicero, Soleil Niklasson, Wolfgang Schlüter, Joel Frahm, Wolfgang Engstfeld, Ulli Beckerhoff, Carlos Bica, Paul Heller, Tim Sund, Gregor Hübner, Heiner Wiberny, Lutz Büchner and Fiete Felsch. He has been awarded several prizes, including Jazzpodium Niedersachsen, Competition Westphalia Jazz and Folkwang Sponsorship Award. He participated in various CD and radio productions and toured with different bands in Germany and abroad.