

DOMINIK SCHÜRMAN ENSEMBLE – THE SEAGULL’S SERENADE (ENG REVIEW)

INDISPENSABLE!

JAZZ



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MARKS LES NOTES



AVERAGE / MOYEN



GOOD / BON



VERY GOOD / TRES BON



GREAT / COUP DE COEUR



A MUST / INDISPENSABLE

Here is a magnificent album coming to us from Switzerland. However, you may not be familiar with the composer and double bassist Dominik Schürmann. So, here are some excerpts from his biography before we discuss this album. Dominik Schürmann is the son of jazz pianist Niggi Schürmann. Thanks to his father, he was exposed to music, especially jazz, from a very young age. At the age of six, Schürmann began taking piano lessons and later transitioned to the double bass. He quickly became an integral part of the Swiss jazz scene and regularly collaborates with internationally renowned jazz musicians today, including Hendrik Meurkens, Max Ionata, Luis Diego Bonilla, Jorge Rossy, Karl Ratzler, George Gruntz, Isla Eckinger, Oscar Klein, Vince Benedetti, Domenic Landolf, David Klein, Adrian Mears, Adam Taubitz, Titi Winterstein, Kurt Weil, Jim Galloway, John Serry, Bonnie Jeanne Taylor, Miguel de la Cerna, Othella Dallas, Andreas Herrmann, Markus Hauser, Mario Schneeberger, Sam Burckhardt, and many others. He has performed in numerous jazz clubs and jazz festivals in Switzerland and abroad.

With this background, we can expect an exceptional album, which is indeed the case. It possesses a beautiful cultural identity, blending jazz with hints of classical music. It's worth mentioning that in Europe, as in Switzerland, musicians typically begin their journey with the study of classical music. Although this is somewhat less true today with the presence of jazz programs here and there, we find ourselves with extremely well-crafted compositions, fluid and filled with brilliant harmonies and enchanting refrains. Since creating an album as a double bassist is no simple feat, we appreciate the emphasis placed on group composition and the excellent choice of the vocalist Song Yi Jeon, who appears on tracks 1, 6, and 7. Her contributions add delightful surprises to the album. Furthermore, the music is performed by fantastic musicians, including Marc Ullrich (Trumpet, Flugelhorn), Claudio Bergamin (Trumpet), Daniel Blanc (Alto Saxophone, Flute), Domenic Landolf (Tenor Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, Alto Flute), Patrick Joray (Tenor Saxophone, Flute), Lukas Briggen (Trombone), Kira Linn (Baritone Saxophone on Tracks 3, 4, 6, 8), George Ricci (Baritone Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Clarinet), Tilman Günther (Piano), Dominik Schürmann (Bass), Jānis Jaunalksnis (Drums). As you move from track to track, you'll savor the richness of the musical performances and the arrangements that subtly highlight the brass instruments. So when the double bass takes center stage, your ears perk up, and you appreciate the warmth and roundness of the sounds.

With seven co-produced albums released under his own name in just the past three years, the prolific discography of Swiss double bassist Dominik Schürmann reflects his passion and talent for jazz. Yes, Dominique offers us jazz with a strong identity, his own. An aficionado of beauty and grandeur, his compositions resonate as if one were gazing at vast landscapes. The trumpet acts as a storyteller, and the double bass takes over, revealing the beauty of the path to follow, as in the title "Jazz People." However, don't expect grand effects here. Just like in a novel by Paul Auster, you need to focus on the smallest details. To say that the editorial teams at Bayou Blue Radio and Paris-Move consider this album "Indispensable" is truly an understatement!

Thierry De Clemensat

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PARIS-MOVE, October 22nd 2023

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