

After studying in Mannheim, **Andreas** went to New York to take lessons with Vincent Herring and George Garzone at the New School University. He was a member of the Bujazzo and has appeared with Maria Schneider and Ack van Rooyen among many others. Furthermore, he was a scholar at the German Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes).

Beginning his classical piano education at the age of six, **Christoph** has studied jazz piano in Mannheim with Joerg Reiter, additionally taking lessons with John Taylor and Rob Madna. Apart from his own musical projects, he has appeared with Peter Herbolzheimer (Bujazzo), Ack van Rooyen, David Liebman and many others.

Matthias studied bass in Würzburg before moving to Mannheim where he currently resides. He tackles a wide array of musical styles and has appeared on numerous albums. Quite a number of his band projects have earned prestigious prizes.

Marcel started drumming before he started talking and has actually never stopped since then. He studies drumming in Stuttgart, tours Europe on a regular basis and is a proud member of the Barbara Dennerlein Band and the Olivia Trummer Trio.

THE ANDREAS RAPP [QUARTET] IS



Andreas Rapp ➤ alto saxophone



Christoph Heckeler ➤ piano



Matthias "TC" Debus ➤ acoustic bass



Marcel "time.keeper" Guske ➤ drums



▶ FILE UNDER [JAZZ]
ANDREAS RAPP
QUARTET

NEUKLANG

All compositions by Andreas Rapp

I would like to thank everyone who made this recording possible, especially my family: your love and support has always kept me moving forward; Nicola: for your love and understanding – and for Mgyuyu; Eva Bauer-Oppelland: for organizing simply everything; Philipp Heck: for doing a fabulous job; George Garzone, Bill Kirchner, Leanne Ledgerwood and Armen Donelian: it's you guys who have brought me this far.

Special thanks to TC for his commitment and for always having the right idea, to Christoph for doing a marvelous job and for being Christoph and to Marcel for turning into music what usually starts out as an amorphous mumble.

Extra special thanks to Christopher Kremer for the nice pics!

Super extra special thanks to Rory Stuart who - without hesitation - wrote some benevolent liner notes. I really appreciate everything you've done for me.

What first impressed me about the North American music industry was the fact that it labels its CDs telling shop assistants where to file them. The idea of telling people what it is they are going to hear before they actually hear it totally blew my mind.

Writing the music for this album was a long process during which the band kept trying to establish an authentic Jazz sound. At the same time we had to pay tribute to the indisputable pop character of some of the tunes.

The whole process was happening on the fringe. So when we finished recording the music I almost felt obliged to label it and tell myself: File under Jazz!

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www.andirapp.de



➤ It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to say a few words about this debut recording by Andreas Rapp and his Quartet. I met Andreas when he was a student in my advanced rhythm class at New School University in New York. He was a stellar member of that class, and subsequently spent a semester as my teaching assistant. In passing through the New School and going on to do exciting things musically, Andreas joins a remarkable group of my former students (John Ellis, Robert Glasper, E.J. and Marcus Strickland, Mike Moreno, Mike Rodriguez, Matt Penman, Gregoire Maret ...just to name a few!).

I knew to expect musical excellence from Andreas, but it is still wonderful to hear this recording. Listen to the warmth and humanity that comes through in Andreas' sound, and the flow of ideas in his improvisation.

Check out the fine group he has put together, since moving back to Germany, with Christoph Heckeler, impressive prize-winning pianist in Mannheim who adds so much, both in his accompaniment and his solos; Matthias Debus, bassist who studied jazz in Würzburg and has a solid background in both the jazz and classical worlds, and uses his fine tone to do an excellent job of holding down the bottom; and musically sensitive team-player 23-year-old drummer, Marcel Gustke, currently enrolled in the jazz program at the Stuttgarter Musikhochschule. Notice how organic the compositions feel, and how, although they have many elements of new jazz, including odd and changing meters, etc..., they flow very naturally and un-self-consciously. And, finally, check out the relaxation, comfort with each other, and confidence that comes through in the playing

of the group – none of the sense, so common, of young people trying to prove something (and, in the course of it, often proving nothing!). These are musicians, mature beyond their years, playing beautifully together and really playing for the music. Whether the higher energy pieces or the more contemplative ones, it is the collective sound and feel of the group that makes this such a pleasurable listening experience to me. I hope you enjoy this debut by Andreas and his group as much as I do!

- Rory Stuart, New York, February 2007
www.rorystuart.com

