

# Sounding Glasperlenspiel

Nikolas Anadolis Trio at “Enjoy Jazz” in Heidelberg

By RAINER KÖHL

Two years ago was the then 20 year old Nikolas Anadolis already a guest at “Enjoy Jazz”, at the time in the company of his family. Now he came again to the Heidelberg Karlstorbahnhof, this time with his new trio: top class and equal musicians.

Anadolis is an whizz-kid on the piano, who is equipped with sheer unlimited pianistic skills and can boast of an unbridled joy of playing. He studied at the prestigious Berklee College in Boston and has already reaped many coveted prizes. A musician who performs the technically demanding with the greatest levity and delight. The nonchalant elegance of the great old ones he combines with a youthfully fierce joy of playing. He let his classical training shine through in colorful arabesques à la Ravel or in pointed rhythms like from Prokofjew. In his own compositions he made the descant tones sparkle and glisten, every note being dotted delicately: a sounding glass bead game.

He swirled witty capers over the keys, forked out casually and virtuosicly twisted ornamental variations on the keyboard.

With Simon Tailleu on the warm swinging double bass and the complex, multifaceted drumming of Jonas Burgwinkel he created wonderfully intermeshed trio structures, a perfect clockwork of interlocking rhythmical and melodical structures.

Several of the introductions of his compositions showed borrowings from Rachmaninov. Exuberant passages skittered about with dizzyingly speed, and the finales of his pieces are always a surprise, when after the virtuosic they swing back into calm hymnody like from a Bach chorale. These final turns come about equally serene and laconic, with a quiet smile. The pianist let his improvisations flow upon the keys with a twirly and portamento-rich elegance. Often virtuosic shimmering dreamery, but also blues-like and sharp stuff a la Thelonious Monk.

Anadolis can play you dizzy with labyrinthine passages and countermelodies, with amusing ragtime- and boogy- sprinklings. All the while are elegance and spontaneity happily wed.

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