

Duo Elin Sakas

Christian Elin Maruan Sakas

...another highlight in the art of duo-playing.
(...) Wonderful recording.

FONO FORUM

The conversations of this duo are universal.
hifi & records

A discovery!
Jazzpodium

some kind of blues



Foto: Thomas Redlwinmer

Christian Elin

soprano saxophone, bass clarinet

Saxophone and bass clarinet player Christian Elin studied classical saxophone in Munich and Basel. Following his academic studies he focused on jazz and contemporary music and appeared on stage with artists such as Barbara Hannigan, Katie Melua, Mariss Jansons, Peter Eötvös, Zubin Mehta and Lang Lang.

He has worked with numerous celebrated orchestras, including the Berlin and the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ensemble Modern and the Bavarian Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra.

In 2013 Christian Elin was awarded the Bavarian Young Artist's Award. In 2015 he was invited as artist in residence at the french Festival „1001 Notes“ in Limoges and performed his composition „Waves“ for soprano saxophone and string orchestra during the world saxophone congress in Strasbourg with the Orchestre Symphonique de Mulhouse.



Foto: Laurent Bugnet

Three CDs of his compositions, „streaming“, „Back to yourself“ and „Some kind of Blues“, have appeared under the label raccanto/Munich.

Christian Elin und Maruan Sakas are two border crossers who have joined forces for a special duo: both musicians are equally at home in jazz and classical music and this love of freedom of improvisation and for the clarity of classical form is reflected in their programmes. Standing in the tension field between classical, jazz, minimal music and ethnic reminiscence the duo Elin – Sakas creates a simple and profound music in their two programmes „West Wind“ and „Some kind of blues“ with a great sense of beauty and which is sonically intensified by the great variety of Elin's musical instruments – from the deep, dark tone of the bass clarinet to the brilliance of the soprano saxophone.

Das Duo performs regularly at high level national and international festivals, classical and jazz series and has already given more than 50 concerts at home and abroad since its founding in 2015. Among other engagements, the two musicians were guests at the Jazz Festival Lyon/F, the International Chamber Music Festival, Lago di Garda/I, at the Municipal Theatre Landsberg, at the Jazzfest Munich and at the Festival Musica Badià/I.

In January 2017 their debut album „Some kind of blues“ appeared and was highly praised by the press. In autumn 2018 the duo are to be making their debut at the Berlin Philharmonic.

Maruan Sakas

piano

Pianist Maruan Sakas was born in Erlangen in 1985 and since 2004 has been living in Munich, where he first studied Music for the Teaching Profession and subsequently jazz piano under Leonid Chizhik. In 2017 he was appointed professor for piano music practise in schools at the Dresden Music Conservatoire since he had already been teaching at the Munich Music Conservatoire from 2010-2017.

In addition to winning several prizes at federal level in „Jugend musiziert“, he was also awarded the first prize for song improvisation at the competition for practical piano for music teachers in Weimar in 2008 as well as the prize for young jazz pianists presented by the Steinway-Haus, Munich, in 2010.

He has had scholarships from both the Deutsche Studienstiftung and the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation. Maruan Sakas is equally at home in the fields of classical



Foto: Laurent Bugnet

music and jazz as is demonstrated by his wide range of activities as a pianist, music teacher, bandleader, arranger and composer.

YouTube

- >> The scent of light
- >> 1 - 2 - 5
- >> En route
- >> Le vent de l'ouest

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Duo Elin Sakas

PROGRAMME: WEST WIND

Tasks completed in pairs give twice the amount of pleasure – a sentence that has validity for many areas of life. There is intimacy and familiarity and what is more pleasing than to travel away together? For example to France, the mother country of the saxophone? In their new programme, „Westwind“ Christian Elin und Maruan Sakas map out the special connecting lines between the aesthetic sounding music of their French neighbours and their own compositions.

With their extraordinary combination of instruments the two musicians create a musical panorama for which you have to climb to a very high vantage point.

Whereas the first part offers works of Bach, Schumann and Poulenc, the original compositions of the second half contain elements of jazz, world music and film scores. But what seems so different at first glance actually belongs together: Firstly there is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who was one of the greatest improvisers. In addition, Robert Schumann, who influenced many French composers of the late 19th century including not least of all Francis Poulenc, whose harmonious sound language in turn refers to jazz. The original compositions by the duo contain a high level of written-out parts with complex structures, as known from classical music and which are dispersed again and again by improvisational flights of fancy.

Another bridge between the two halves of the concert are the French titles of the original pieces, which were often composed in France, such as „Le vent de L'ouest“ the title piece of the programme. Music for dreams, which like a gentle breeze, expresses Christian Elin's longing for his French second home. It's probably not promising too much if one said that the classics of tomorrow are being created right here. New music of the 21st century, of which no-one need be afraid. Music which takes the listener by the hand without relinquishing sophistication and free spirit.

In their music the two exceptional artists blend the clarity of classical form with the freedom of improvisation. Westwind – This is highly intelligent music, thrilling, virtuosic and entertaining all at the same time.

It was the magic of touching moods and soul-opening soundscapes.
Landsberger Allgemeine

PIECE SELECTION

First half of the programme, among others

Johann Sebastian Bach	Flute Sonata BWV 1031
Robert Schumann	Adagio und Allegro
Claude Debussy	Rapsodie
Francis Poulenc	Sonata for Oboe
Jean Françaix	Cinq danses exotiques

Second half of the programme, among others

Christian Elin	Le vent de l'ouest En route Un pas jusqu'au seuil
Maruan Sakas	Juste pour le plaisir Rhythm Changes! ECMS

This really risky integration of very different styles and compositional techniques succeeded, primarily through the structural quality of the compositions, a first class and well attuned duo playing brilliantly in striking harmony, giving their own introductions and fascinating artistically.
Neue Musikzeitung

Dream away, listening, perfecting wisdom.
WESTZEIT