

CORNELIA STREET CAFE 29 Cornelia Street New York, NY 10014 (212) 989-9319



Thomas Heberer (NoBusiness) by Clifford Allen

Brooklyn-based and Cologne-reared trumpeter and composer Thomas Heberer has been making subtle waves on the improvisational music scene since the late '80s and been regularly associated with the Dutch Instant Composers Pool Orchestra since the '90s. His work as a solo artist and as a leader of small groups is less well known, especially on these shores. That should change with the chamber trio Clarino, which joins Heberer with bassist Pascal Niggenkemper and clarinetist Joachim Badenhorst on nine instant compositions that use the leader's "cookbook" form of notation. This trio is represented on one of two LPs, *Klippe*. The remainder of the set is dedicated to solo music and titled *One*.

As Heberer notes in the liners, "cookbook...allows for the highest amount of freedom on the musicians' side while incorporating significant structural tools on the composer's side as well. [It] does so by implementing the idea of instant memory." Heberer's music for trio is intense and dusky, moving in ways not necessarily associated with jazz, often parceling out themes that recall contemporary concert music. It does not take long for the bright, crackling volleys of Heberer's language to snake out on "Mole", bouncing off the pensive, woody walk assembled by Niggenkemper and Badenhorst. Wound harmonic pops bounce off of delicate reedy cycles, poles in between which the trumpeter's swagger builds forward motion. "Insel" pits nasty bass clarinet sputter and metallic scrawl against muted sashays, the formidable bowed and knocked masses of Niggenkemper's bass providing stewing support. Heberer's lines evoke classical simplicity only to fragment it in brash stutters on "Kleiner Bruder", offset by what amounts to an oddly precise wander, bass and bass clarinet glomming together only to act independently moments later.

One, unlike other albums of Heberer on his own, is unadorned by electronics as he stretches out on ten pieces for unaccompanied Bb concert and guarter-tone trumpet. These tracks are not just gimmicks, but a concise exploration of what can be done with breath and instrument in a solo setting. To be sure, there is nothing of 'traditional' trumpet playing here, Heberer using multiphonics, circular breathing and split tones to create apolarity between husky lilt and nattering high-pitched whine on the opening "Bone". Thin spits broaden into near-bilious stammer on "Network", punctuated by audible inhalations as Heberer occupies a distinct notch alongside Albert Mangelsdorff and Axel Dörner. One isn't an effort to make the trumpet sound like something else entirely; rather, what Heberer does is imprint an expanded vocabulary and imbue it with physical challenges, all the while retaining (and perhaps even strengthening) a literalist message. Rising and falling huffs, clarion bugle-calls and variably-inflected tone rows mesh with buggy whine and subtonal growl, often ending up woven into quite beautiful lines.

Klippe/One is a perfect place to get acquainted with Heberer's art and hopefully his recognition on his own will continue to increase.

For more information, visit nobusiness records.com. Heberer is at The Stone Mondays with Karl Berger. See Calendar.



Tiresias (with Sunny Murray, Michael Bisio) Louie Belogenis Trio (Porter) by Jeff Stockton

In a crowded field of jazz tenor saxists Louie Belogenis has distinguished himself as an original voice in the style forged by Albert Ayler and late-period, Aylerinfluenced, John Coltrane. Belogenis has come to this style honestly, having previously participated in tributes to these artists organized by his frequent partner, the late drummer Rashied Ali. On *Tiresias*, Belogenis partners with the man who practically invented avant garde drumming, Sunny Murray, along with bassist Michael Bisio, to reimagine Ayler's *Spiritual Unity* trio (in which Murray played).

Murray's participation is the only thing that explicitly links the five improvisations here to the Ayler trio's masterwork. The single cover is Coltrane's "Alabama", so what this trio is tapping into is the spaciousness, reflective tempos and extra-sensory interplay for which Ayler (as well as Coltrane) were searching. Belogenis, Murray and Bisio aim for a state of suspended grace and they get it, but what comes through most clearly in this music is flow. The improvisations sound seamlessly knit together and Murray is integral to this process. His rhythms float on the cymbals but are grounded by a pounding bass drum and he presents a clinic in touch. Bisio is equally subtle, drawing sonorous low notes with his bow and anchoring the tunes with rich and emphatic plucks.

If the touchstone is Ayler, Belogenis' playing isn't as broad, nor his timbre as extreme, but he finds the correct middle range by positioning himself inside Murray's insistent murmur and wrapping his sound around Bisio's quietstorm strum. The recording quality itself enhances the overall sonic effect by accurately capturing Murray's now-you-see-him-now-you-don't phantom percussion, Bisio's nuanced tastefulness and Belogenis' appropriately strained-yet-forceful tone. Belogenis pushes the limits of his tenor, but not too much and the calmness at the center of this music makes it at once an easy go and a profoundly moving - almost sublime - listening experience.

For more information, visit porterrecords.com. Belogenis is at University of the Streets Jul. 2nd and The Stone Jul. 5th. See Calendar.

