

Lonesome Buck Music

% Markus Fritsch, Spitzwegstrasse 56 | 93051 Regensburg | Germany | Phone: +49 175 168 36 20 | Email: mail@markusfritsch.de | Website: www.markusfritsch.de | Ust-ID-Nr.: DE155949742 |

Press text "Roman Fritsch & His Concert Jazz Band - Postmodern Nostalgia"

"My playing and my writing - that's how I hear the world." (Roman Fritsch)

The 26-year-old, upcoming German saxophonist and composer Roman Fritsch invites you to a journey into his world of sound on his debut album "Postmodern Nostalgia". Be it through the depths of the jungle, majestic kingdoms or smoky jazz clubs - a musical attraction extends through the entire album, taking the listener into a postmodern as well as nostalgic world.

The great American arranger, composer and lecturer Bill Dobbins enthusiastically judged "an extraordinary big band". Roman Fritsch's "Concert Jazz Band" is peppered with talented young musicians who make the jazz scene sit up and take notice and enrich it. The musicians know each other from the Bavarian State Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Federal Jazz Orchestra, to which Roman Fritsch belonged for several years.

Roman Fritsch, born in 1996, grew up in Regensburg and, after graduating from high school, completed his bachelor's degree in jazz saxophone at the University of Music in Würzburg in 2014 and received a one-year scholarship at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester (NY) during this time. In 2020 he moved to the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, where he successfully completed his master's degree in composition and arrangement. Since 2022 Fritsch has been attending the new Master of Big Band course in Frankfurt.

The band opens the album with **"Prism of Night"**, an upbeat swinging track reminiscent of the repertoire of Gerry Mulligan's Concert Jazz Band or Bill Holman's compositions for Stan Kenton. Introductory with a dark and meditative chorale, the piece **"Kaleidoscopic"** changes into a contrasting medium swing. The imaginative, melodic writing of the composer through constantly changing tonal centers is reflected in the title alone. An expressive statement is the ballad **"Unrequited Love"**, in which the soloists lyrically and emotionally resolve the struggle of an unfulfilled love. A sinister and definitely bluesy note fills the piece that gives the album its name - **"Postmodern Nostalgia"**. Reminiscent of Charles Mingus, this composition shows a reminiscence of traditional jazz paired with modern form and sophisticated melody and harmony. Surprisingly, **"You Ain't Worth My Heartache"** describes it very well. In addition to the classically structured minor swing, it lures the listener out of their comfort zone with unpredictable exchanges between band and drums and the abrupt end. Exotic sounds reminiscent of Ellington and Strayhorn can be heard in **"Mystic Jungle"**. The mutually meandering interweaving of melodies, the mesmerizing rhythm section and the colorful instrumentation invite you into a magical world. Simple and stately melody, contrapuntal lines and colorful harmonic progressions characterize **"Dance Throughout The Universe"**. Alternating between a "Dance Party" vamp and a medium up swing, the composition disappears into the infinite expanse of the universe. **"Her Majesty, The Queen"** treads an ingenious alternation between lively 6/8 English folk music and a film music approach that brings the truly majestic composition to a crowning conclusion. The CD closes with a roaring saxophone battle - **"Brothers Unstoppable"** - between tenor and baritone saxophone, which swings higher and higher at a dizzying speed until the massive band energy is discharged in a thunderous shout chorus.

"The wide range of moods and musical vocabulary in these compositions certainly makes for an impressive debut album (...). If you haven't heard them yet, you are in for a real musical treat. Sit back and enjoy! (Bill Dobbins)