



Stefan Karl Schmid Lars Duppler

www.duppler-schmid.de

press info 2024

BLÍÐUR



The two half-Icelandic musicians **Lars Duppler** and **Stefan Karl Schmid** have been playing the world's stages together for a good decade now. Born from the idea of exploring the music of their second home, Iceland, they have developed their very own duo sound over time. This is characterised by atmospheric soundscapes, nuanced interplay and captivating improvisations, which they translate into their own compositions and arrangements as well as traditional Icelandic music. Time and again, the two seek to collaborate with other artists, thereby expanding the context of their own work.

Following their debut album "Hringferð", which was produced in cooperation with Deutschlandfunk Cologne, Duppler and Schmid travelled to Iceland in February 2023 to record their new album **BLÍÐUR**. The duo was joined by the exceptional guitarist **Hilmar Jensson**, who lives in Reykjavík.

Recorded in the famous studio of the band "Sígur Rós" in Mosfellsbær, a completely new, exciting sound cosmos has been created here. 13 works composed especially for this occasion reflect the unique atmosphere of the Icelandic winter and thus take an intimate look at the perfectly interwoven and virtuoso playing of the protagonists.



BLÍÐUR

release
01/26/2024

Stefan Karl Schmid
tenor saxophone
clarinet

Lars Duppler
piano

Hilmar Jensson
guitar & efx



Both Duppler and Schmid are recipients of the City of Cologne's Jazz Prize and are active members of the national scene. They lead their own projects (Schmid's Huhn, Lars Duppler unbound, SJO\CGN) and are in demand as sidemen in various projects (including Jens Düppe Quartett, Shannon Barnett Quartett, Reza Askari ROAR).



Duppler studied at the University of Music in Cologne and at the conservatory in Paris with Hans Lüdemann, John Taylor and Daniel Humair. Member of the LJJÖ NRW 1997-2000, European tour with the EBU Orchestra 2000. As leader of his own bands he released 6 CDs, "Rætur", a musical search for traces in his mother's homeland. As a member of the Nils Wülker Group, he has been involved in productions for Sony and Warner Music.

In 2003 he received the Jazz Prize of the City of Cologne, in 2006 he spent 6 months as a scholarship holder at the Cité des Arts in Paris, with his quartet "Alliance Urbaine" he won 3rd place at the New German Jazz Prize 2008. In 2015 he released his first solo album "naked" in cooperation with Deutschlandfunk. He is a member of "Niels Klein Tubes & Wires" and the Jens Düppe Quartet. He currently leads the trio "Lars Duppler unbound" with Denis Gäbel and Jens Düppe.

He has been a lecturer in jazz piano and ensemble at the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences since September 2011.

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Stefan Karl Schmid is "without question one of the most interesting saxophonists on the young German jazz scene" (jazzandrock.com). With "a tonal language full of nuances" (Kölner Stadtanzeiger) and an "alert intellect" (DLF) at all times, the half-Icelandic, half-German has already "found his very own personal style" (Mannheimer Morgen) in his young artistic career. He realises this in a variety of projects and ensembles, both as a saxophonist and as a clarinetist and composer, with great detail and virtuosity. Schmid spreads his artistic work across various formations. From the intimate duo with pianist Lars Duppler, through trio and quartet formations (MUSE & Schmid's Huhn) to large formations such as his octet Pyjama or the Subway Jazz Orchestra, he captivates both playfully and compositionally with a "masterful sound language full of nuances that can be savoured with all the senses" (H.P. Koll).

Schmid teaches as a Professor for Jazz Saxophone and Ensemble at the University of Arts in Mannheim.

www.stefankarlschmid.net