

Development of the project

„Spirit'n'Jazz – Can you see...?“

01.11.2009



To be played on radio stations in New York is showing some relevance, even more so, when a project is into intercultural dialog after 9/11. With 50 radio stations from Australia to California and good reviews on SmoothJazzNow, AllAboutJazz and other magazines Spirit'n'Jazz is collecting international acknowledgement. At World's Cool Jazz in Florida the following tracks reached No.1 placements:

- “Yule Tied” - June - October 2008
- “Do You Feel It?” - November 08 – March 2009
- “China Sunrise” - April/May 2009
- “Information Politics” - 31.10.2009 - ...

The contribution of the CD to the intercultural dialogue has been the theme of an interview broadcasted on D-Radio Kultur, Berlin, on the 07.02.2009.

To the 1st of November 2008 Spirit'n'Jazz published the single-track “Treasure” to the financial crisis and it spontaneously jumped on No.1 at QFM Tenerife/Spain. Also to this track there was an interview on Deutschlandfunk, Berlin, on the 17.11.08.

Radio airplays:

Just on date of the publishing the CD „Can you see...?“ from Spirit'n'Jazz recieved praises in advance by a broadcasting on the **German** high culture radio SWR 2. At the same time a different playlist of DJ Ottic in the Club “Alooga” in Bonn did show, that this music is on the latest trend as well.

In November and Dezember 07 Spirit'n'Jazz has been played in some Jazz radio shows in Germany. From Dezember 2007 on radio stations in other countries started to play the CD. Radio Nova in Sardegna, **Italy** has played various tracks for many weeks in their show „The House of Blues“ and has put the CD up on their website as recommended. Soon after that Ron J. Pelletier from Jazz radio Gallery 41 in San Francisco, California, did announce the first rotation 24/7 with compliments for the CD.

Other music directors of so far 18 radios in USA did follow this decision with many putting the CD into their standard programme. The latest addition to this list came from Central New York, Eric S. Cohen, music director at WAER 88.3 FM, alongside to two other radio stations in the state of New York. It is not obvious that a European Jazz production, which is into intercultural dialog between Christians and Muslims after 9/11, is to be played in New York.

But this CD not only arrived in the USA. The vivid Jazz scene in **Spain** did pick it up at the same time. In Spain „Can you see...?“ is broadcast on five radio stations, with two placing it on high rotation and featuring it on their websites as a recommended CD.

In between radios from **Canada and Belgium** have noticed the CD and “Radio Jazz Plus” in Montreal took the CD into their standard programme.

On the other side of the world, in **Australia**, some Jazz announcers and the music director of the big radio “PBS 106,7 FM” at Melbourne started raving when they first listened to „Can you see...?“. They

recommended the CD on their website and took it into their regular programme. Capitol City radio "ArtSound FM" in Canberra did join in and "Coast FM 96,3" in Gosford/Sydney also followed in May 2008.

And in Portugal the big national Radio Televisione Portugal Antena 2 took a one hours Jazz show "Jazz com Brancas" to play nearly the whole CD from Spirit'n'Jazz on the 20th of May 2008.

Radio Charts: In June 2008 "Can you see...?" entered the **TOP 10** of **World's Cool Jazz** webradio in Largo, Florida, USA. Since then four tracks have been on No.1 in the TOP 10 list.

On Tenerife, Spain, the track "Time with Laura" has been on number 6 at **QFM Radio** in June, July and August 2008.

Reviews:

In April/May/June 2008 you could find the picture of Spirit'n'Jazz singer Leyla Tugal on the front page of **SmoothJazzNow.com** for seven weeks next to pictures of Sting, Norah Jones and other stars. The contained CD-review with interview is a good example of many good write-ups worldwide. Best critiques are for the combination of the extraordinary concept and the musical quality:

- Akbar Nour for SmoothJazzNow, Canada: "...the sensual and hypnotic voice of Leyla Tugal adds a genuine spiritual touch to the various rich musical atmospheres and thematic tracks of "Spirit N'Jazz". And the CD, recorded in an unrehearsed session-like manner, will provide the listeners with rich instrumental tracks, that invite to cool down, relax and reflect on the chaotic world we are living in."

- On the start of publication the German web-magazine „CrossOver“ has been the first to proclaim their „unreserved recommendation“ as a conclusion of their detailed and very good CD-review.

Agreements to this judgement came especially from radio people like:

- Ron J. Pelletier ,Gallery 41, San Francisco, California, commented: "I am totally "grabbed" by just the first handful of notes. I should let you know that you have a new friend and musical supporter in the San Francisco area."

- From Spain followed a CD-review from QFM Radio Tenerife: „Recorded in an unrehearsed session-like manner at the Tutto-Vanità Studios, the musicianship of ... truly shine through today's prefabricated plastic Pop. Leyla's vocals, whether sung or spoken, are mesmerising and hypnotic. The perfect CD to chill, relax and reflect."

After that there were arriving praises from Australia:

- Desi De of the Melbourne radio "PBS106,7FM" congratulated: „Great improvisations and variety and a very brave concept which I think works very well."

- And Peter Merrit, Music Director of the same station raved: "Oh this is soooooooooo good, congratulations. Our jazz announcers are going to go crazy over this, I may not be the biggest jazz fan but I know what I like and I love this release."

- A late entry to these reactions came from Australia again. Peter & Fran Burford, Coast FM 96,3, Gosford/Sydney, Australia wrote: "A very interesting concept in music, albeit Jazz music, has been introduced to us by Gunter Hauser, an independent recording artist in Germany. Through the fine talents of a group of musicians from diverse backgrounds in Jazz, Pop, R&B and Classical comes this very special album. Coming from the UK, Germany and Turkey the musicians gather together and talk about ethical, philosophical and spiritual themes, leading into "jam"-sessions – well, you could say, pretty extraordinary jam sessions.

The result is a stunning collaboration of talent from Gunter Hauser on piano and accordion, Derek Crehan, bass and guitar, Richard Evans on drums, and a fusion with Paul Douglas on trombone. Several tracks from the album "Spirit'n'Jazz" feature the sensitive vocal sounds of Leyla Tugal. The music has a different sound and feel to other Jazz styles, blending a mix of authenticity, emotion, excitement and yet managing to maintain a very relaxing tempo. Their tracks are given quotations from the Bible and the Koran as their inspiration.

- In May 2008 Vittorio lo Conte for AllAboutJazz Italy included the CD of Spirit'n'Jazz in his Jazz-commentary „Jazz goes Pop goes Jazz“ and described it: "A relaxing work of high quality".

- A short critique from Eric S. Cohen, Music Director at WAER 88.3 FM Central New York, USA

“There are a number of tracks that I plan on putting into rotation shortly for our listeners to hear. Very enjoyable album.”

All radio stations

- Blue Lake Public Radio, Twin Lake, MI, USA
- Boise State Radio, Boise, ID, USA
- Gallery 41, San Francisco, CA, USA, on rotation 24/7
- KEOS 89.1 FM, College Station, TX, USA, on rotation
- KFYO Classic FM 99, St. Louis, MO, USA, „I love Jazz“
- KIOS FM, Omaha, NE, USA
- KJAZZ 88.1FM, Long Beach, CA, USA
- KMHD, Gresham, OR, USA
- KUT FM, Austin, TX, USA
- Live365.com, St Louis, MO, USA, „I love Jazz“, standard program
- Point of Departure, Damascus, MD, USA
- Sirius Satellite Radio, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- Smooth Jazz Excursion, Springfield, IL, USA
- WAER 88.3, Syracuse / Central New York, NY, USA, on rotation
- WCJZ, World’s Cool Jazz, Largo, FL, USA, on rotation + 4 x No. 1
- WCVF FM, Fredonia, NY, USA, "General Eclectic"
- WPKN FM, Bridgeport, CT, USA, standard program
- WPKM FM, Montauk, NY, USA, standard program
- WSCA FM, Portsmouth, NH, USA, standard program
- WSIE 88.7 FM, Edwardsville, IL, USA
- WTJU, Radio Virginia, Charlottesville/Virginia, USA
- Urgent.FM, Gent, Belgium, „worldservice“
- RTV Amstelveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands, „Jazzcorner“
- Art Sound FM, Canberra, Australia, standard program
- PBS 106,7 FM, Melbourne, Australia, standard program + recommended CD
- Coast FM 96,3, Gosford/Sydney, Australia, „Jazz Vibes“
- Radio Jazz Plus, Montreal, Canada, standard program
- SmoothJazzNow.com, Montreal, Canada
- Urgent.FM, Gent, Belgium, „worldservice“
- Punto Radio Cascina, Pisa, Italy, “Anima Jazz”
- Radio Nova, Sardegna, Italy, „The House of Blues“, recommended CD
- RDP Antena 2, Lisbon, Portugal, “Jazz Com Brancas” - one hour programme
- RUM 97,5 Braga/Porto, Portugal, Baile dos Bombeiros
- QFM, Tenerife, Spain, on „high rotation“, No. 1 Nov. 08
- Aeropuerto Jazz Cafe, Gran Canaria, Spain, recommended CD
- Canal Extremadura Radio, Badajoz, Spain
- El Club de Jazz, Pamplona, Spain
- LastFM, 101,7 Sevilla, Spain, „Jazz en el aire“
- Radio Jazz International, Bole, Swiss
- Deutschlandradio Berlin, Germany, “Tonart: Lounge” + Interview
- Deutschlandradio Berlin, Deutschland, “Corso”, Interview „Treasure“
- D-Radio Kultur Berlin, “Religionen”, Interview intercultural dialogue
- ju: Nai Radio, Magdeburg, Germany
- Radio Weser TV, Germany, „Der JW-Jazzpoint“
- Radio Darmstadt, Germany, „Journey into Sound“ + „Treffpunkt eine Welt“
- Radio Lippeland, Lippstadt, Germany, „Soundtracks“
- Radio Unerhört Marburg, „Jazz-Zeit: Neues vom Jazz“
- Radio RheinWelle 92,5 Wiesbaden, Germany
- SWR 2, Baden-Baden, Germany, “Morgenjournal”
- Querfunk 104,8 FM, Karlsruhe, Germany
- Radio Caprice, BOSSA NOVA

All Reviews in full length

Spirit'n'Jazz: Can You See...? – by Dr.Thomas Feist for CrossOver.net

There is a new and unusual project from Douglas & Hauser with the actual production of Spirit'n'Jazz" – a sideproject of both musicians in combination with other interesting comusicians, which acts in a special context. First it should be clear that this is not the Berlin-Freiburg Jazz-Trio "Jazz'n'Spirit". But what unites them are Jazz and Spirit. The latter can be found on the actual disc because all tracks follow the principle of improvisational moments, which are caught after lecture, discussion and thoughts followed by the call "to the instruments, please."

This would at least be one possible meaning of the saying in the accompanying letter: "these guys forget about everything, when they are playing", and that this improvisation follows spontaneous ideas. One is true: Spirit and improvisation belong together - they are an act of balance without any security. And you need a reliable company. Both is right for this CD. The musicians know each other for over twelve years – personally as well as musically. Stylistically these tracks range between New Minimal, Chill and Soft Jazz. Links to the big area of world music are given by the vocal parts, relations to Modern Jazz are given by the well-sounding trombone – now and then there are sounds of Fusion to be heard. It seems as if the musicians Derek Crehan (GB: g, bg), Richard J. Evans (GB: dr), Leyla Tugal (D: voc) and of course Gunter Hauser (D: p,acc) and A. Paul Douglas (GB: tb) have brought in their musical preferences, without narrowing the total sound stylistically. And just this musical event is mirroring the goal of this disk. It is about connecting different cultures and religions in a musical community. Interreligious and intercultural meeting performed in and by music. The bandmembers have individual and different perspectives to the world, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism are meeting each other. To balance this out in musical perspectives, to create bridges and to accept each other on the same level and to respect each other as differing equals, that's the goal of this journey, on to which Spirit'n'Jazz wants to take along their audience. To found this goal theologically the individual tracks are backed up by quotations from the Bible and the Koran – sources for the musical company and hints for the listener. Even that I personally miss relations to Judaism, this is a beginning, which is convincing – conceptually as well as musically. - Unreserved recommendation!

© by CrossOver

CD-Review from QFM, Tenerife, Spain

The 1st Showtime album review features a consortium of seasoned musicians from England, Germany and Turkey, known as "Spirit'n'Jazz", with their October 2007 release "Can You See...?"

This album can be described as smooth jazz complemented with sublime spiritual vocals, resulting in a very warm and relaxing sound. Dig deeper, and we realise that vocalist Leyla Tugal's lyrics include softly recited passages from the Koran and the Bible, not expressing any religious trend, but demonstrating how similar two diverse cultures can be; a gentle demonstration of music in the form of intercultural dialog.

Recorded in an unrehearsed session-like manner at the Tutto-Vanità Studios, the musicianship of Derek Crehan (Guitar & Bass), Gunter Hauser (Piano), Richard J. Evans (Drums) and A. Paul Douglas (Trombone) truly shine through today's prefabricated plastic pop. Leyla's vocals, whether sung or spoken, are mesmerising and hypnotic. The perfect CD to chill, relax and reflect.

Artist - "Spirit'n'Jazz" DJH Records - Album - "Can You See...?"

DJH Records Order/NºJARO 8095-2 / www.dhrecords.com

<http://www.qmusica.com/>

KINO.de

A German piano player (Gunter Hauser) and three British colleagues (trombone player A. Paul Douglas, drummer Richard J. Evans, guitarist and bass player Derek Crehan) are improvising together and are discovering their spiritual fable. And so there are intensive emotional interactions in flowing tracks, which are connected to quotations from the Bible and the Koran. Impressive.

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CD-Reviews from PBS 106.7 FM, Fitzroy/Melbourne, Australia

Hi, just listening to your recent release Spirit 'n' Jazz and writing to congratulate you on the album. Great improvisations and variety and a very brave concept which I think works very well.

Cheers, DesiD

Presenter of Sunday Sessions (1-3pm), PBS 106.7fm

- Peter Merrit from PBS106,7fm:

"Oh this is so good, congratulations. Our jazz announcers are going to go crazy over this. I may not be the biggest Jazz Fan, but I know what I like and I love this release."

<http://www.pbsfm.org.au/>

Gallery 41, San Francisco, California, USA

Ron J. Pelletier, Gallery 41:

>I am totally "grabbed" by just the first handful of notes. I should let you know that you have a new friend and musical supporter in the San Francisco area.<

http://www.gallery41.com/Gallery41_Main.htm

Urgent FM, Gent, Belgium

Christopher Joseph:

"I've listened to the CD a few times now and I'm diggin' it!"

www.urgent.fm

SmoothJazzNow.com

Review by Akbar Nour for www.smoothjazznow.com

Cool Down, Relax and Reflect with Spirit N' Jazz

Various talented European musicians stemming from Germany and Great Britain have combined their skills to provide us with a quite unusual project: "Spirit N'Jazz: Can You See?"

Knowing each other well and having worked together for more than twelve years, Gunter Hauser (producer and pianist from Germany), three British musicians (guitarist/bassist Derek Crehan, trombonist Paul Douglas and drummer Richard J.Evans), joined by German female singer Leyla Tugal (from Syrian-Turkish extraction), decided that they wanted to embark on a musical project, reflecting their concerns on spirituality and intercultural tolerance. So they took their instruments and started to improvise. At that time, Gunther Hauser visited a mosque with some school pupils in Germany. It was an incredible human experience of sharing thoughts with people from different cultures. These various episodes, added to their numerous discussions on social and spiritual themes, decided the musicians to release a CD, which would form a bridge between various cultures and religions and add a spiritual component to the CD's 11 tracks blending smooth jazz, fusion and chillout.

Each track is accompanied with quotes from both the Bible (selected by Protestant Minister Eberhard Koch) and the Koran (selected by Muslim Imam Halim Garip), to display the similarities of both religious messages. Furthermore the sensual and hypnotic voice of Leyla Tugal adds a genuine spiritual touch to the various rich musical atmospheres and thematic tracks of "Spirit N'Jazz".

As Gunter Hauser, who produced this CD, put it: "I think, music is a positive part of our culture and Christians and Muslims need something good to talk about these days. There are enough problems and tensions all over the world. We want to give something good as an input and want to emphasize the common things. The title „Can you see...? means: "Can you see the connection of love?"

And the CD, recorded in an unrehearsed session-like manner, will provide the listeners with rich instrumental tracks, that invite to cool down, relax and reflect on the chaotic world we are living in.

http://www.smoothjazznow.com/review_spirit_n_jazz.html

All About Jazz Italy: "Jazz goes Pop goes Jazz"

Vittorio lo Conte, 06.05.2008

[Spirit 'n' Jazz](#) *Can You See...?* [D/H Records](#) (2007)

Can You See...? è un album di un quartetto denominatosi Spirit 'n' Jazz. Nel booklet troviamo riferimenti a paragrafi della Bibbia e del Corano, insomma invece di "Clash of Cultures" un invito alla pace ed al dialogo. La musica si sviluppa tra spunti jazzistici, la chitarra di Derek Crehan, le tastiere elettriche, il travolgente A. Paul Douglas al trombone quando presente e la voce dell'ospite Leyla Tugal, che canta in un paio di brani. Nel complesso un lavoro rilassante, di buona qualità, in cui a tratti si trovano spunti funky o blues notevoli.

Can you see...? is an album of a quartet, which is called Spirit'n'Jazz. In the booklet we find quotations from paragraphs of the Bible and the Koran, a „Clash of Cultures“, an invitation to peace and dialog. The music develops from jazzy influences, the guitar of Derek Crehan, the e-piano, the breathtaking A.Paul Douglas on the trombone and when present the voice of guest vocalist Leyla Tugal, who is singing some parts. Overall a relaxing work of high quality, which presents influences of Funk and Blues.

<http://italia.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=2568>

Coast FM 96.3, Gosford/Sydney, Australia

Peter & Fran Burford, 21.05.2008

A very interesting concept in music, albeit Jazz music, has been introduced to us by Gunter Hauser, an independent recording artist in Germany. Through the fine talents of a group of musicians from diverse backgrounds in Jazz, Pop, R&B and Classical comes this very special album. Coming from the UK, Germany and Turkey the musicians gather together and talk about ethical, philosophical and spiritual themes, leading into "jam"-sessions – well, you could say, pretty extraordinary jam sessions.

The result is a stunning collaboration of talent from Gunter Hauser on piano and accordion, Derek Crehan, bass and guitar, Richard Evans on drums, and a fusion with Paul Douglas on trombone. Several tracks from the album "Spirit'n'Jazz" feature the sensitive vocal sounds of Leyla Tugal. The music has a different sound and feel to other Jazz styles, blending a mix of authenticity, emotion, excitement and yet managing to maintain a very relaxing tempo. Their tracks are given quotations from the Bible and the Koran as their inspiration.

<http://www.coastfm.org.au/site/>

WAER 88.3, Syracuse, Central New York, USA

Eric S. Cohen, 11.06.08

"There are a number of tracks that I plan on putting into rotation shortly for our listeners to hear. Very enjoyable album."

<http://www.waer.org/>