

Furtwangen Concert Review (Wednesday, 3. November 2010)

Pianist charms public

- American makes a guest appearance in the Kulturfabrik
- Siegfried Mohr makes this guest appearance in Furtwangen possible

by Bernhard Scherzinger

Furtwangen – Those who attended a special jazz concert of the Furtwanger Kulturfabrik were offered a musical treat. American Stephanie Trick introduced herself as a young and extremely talented pianist who not only knew how to enchant her audience with her excellent piano playing, but also with her naturalness.

Jazz pianist – male, older in age, sturdy stature: that's how jazz pianists have been portrayed since the 1920s. Now this picture must be corrected. Female, young, pretty as a picture, with a sparkling genuineness and radiance – that's how one experiences this 23-year-old pianist. Already at age five, during a visit to a hotel in her hometown of St. Louis, she became enthusiastic about the music of the hotel pianist, who became her piano teacher for the next 13 years. Her first CD appeared on the market in 2005. After her graduation from college, she dedicated herself primarily to the style of stride piano. In this type of playing the left hand is in charge of the function of bass and harmony, by switching octaves, between the lower part of the keyboard to chords in the middle portion, while the right hand plays the melody. This style demands much practice and survives from improvisation. She opened the concert with the "St. Louis Blues," a piece made famous by Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong.

The artist enhanced the evening with anecdotes, as well as with the piece "Nothin'" by Luckey Roberts. Unlike her petite hands, this composer had enormous hands, with which he could reach twice as many keys. Not only fast, but expressive pieces were played in the sets as well, including "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning" or her own composition, "Blues for Alfie," in which she had put all of her feelings for her departed bunny rabbit. Boogie pieces were naturally not missing either, like the well-known "Honky Tonk Train Blues" by Lewis, or Duke Ellington's piece, "Black Beauty." Next to "Viper's Drag," by Fats Waller, other compositions of jazz greats like James P. Johnson, Albert Ammons, or Scott Joplin were also played, but also improvisations inspired by Bach.

The community of stride fans has now grown, which in the end is also a credit to jazz connoisseur Siegfried Mohr (from Vöhrenbach), who has lived in the U.S. for the last 55 years and arranged this concert.



With her music and her natural charm, Stephanie Trick enchants her audience at her jazz concert in the Kulturfabrik.

PHOTO: SCHERZINGER

About the person

Award-winning pianist and recording artist **Stephanie Trick** is a leading authentic interpreter of stride piano today. One of the few pianists to command mastery of this technically and physically demanding jazz piano style, she has been called "the next rising star in the stride world" - which she proved in her concert.