

Georg Ruby Piano Solo

Pianist Georg Ruby is co-initiator and curator of the Cologne JazzHaus project and has become known in particular for his duos with Wollie Kaiser and Michel Pilz. On "Windmills", his second solo piano recording, he shows how multi-layered, varied and exciting improvised music can be. In addition to four freely improvised metalogens and his own compositions, there are also standards to be heard, namely "There Is No Greater Love" by Marty Symes, Ornette Coleman's "Lonely Woman" and "The Windmills Of Your Mind" by Michel Legrand. Ruby's improvisational style is most evident in these standards. The theme of "There Is No Greater Love" initially develops over rapid arpeggios and undergoes tonal mutations through prepared piano strings. Here Ruby stays closest to the theme. The familiar theme of "Lonely Woman" needs no introduction. The theme is only presented in its metamorphoses, continuations, permutations, now and then a literally quoted theme particle penetrates through. Ruby's handling of the theme of "The Windmills Of Your Mind" is most astonishing. He consistently maintains the somewhat melancholy mood of this piece, and here too there is concentrated motif processing, with an enormous fund of musical materials from history and the present at his disposal, from which he draws imaginatively. His magnificent technique is only a means to an end and is never particularly brought to the fore. - This is "instant composing" at its best. Ruby spans large arcs, gives structure and direction to each piece, which he follows consistently, and through his strict economy of material, the connections always remain present. Everything is derived, nothing comes out of nowhere. Listening to these improvisations, one really enjoys them.

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