

## Jellici/Baldes' Soundfields

Johanna Jellici's and Jochen Baldes current band project, Jellici/Baldes' Soundfields, shows what jazz can be in the 21st century. Beyond nostalgic reproductions of the All American Songbook, beyond an academic practicing of scales, the quintet finds their very own musical language, which melts together organic electronics and acoustic tone colors to create a new sound. Instead of expectable schemata, there are surprising connections between composition and improvisation, carried by subtle rhythmical structures and an intoxicating groove. A high point is surely the piece Bubbles Baldes, which captivates by means of both its simplicity and catchy hymnody and might call up associations to Flora Purim and Chick Corea's legendary project Return to Forever. It spreads a lightness of being that lives not only from the somnambulist dialog of voice and saxophone and the complex interweaving of the rhythm group but also from a fluidity that only top-class musicians are capable of generating with such apparent effortlessness.

Jellici/Baldes' Soundfields is wasteful with its ideas and is anything but a one-trick pony. Every piece develops its own atmosphere, whether it's Natures Dance with its far echoes of a contemporary nature romanticism or the seemingly urban-technoid Change. And Jellici/Baldes' Soundfields presents itself as an ensemble of soloists which leaves the typical jazz cliches behind it. During the gradual fabrication of thoughts while they play, the group searches for a distinctive expression for our digital era.