

**CD REVIEW: NEW RELEASE**

ARTIST: Grenco, Tickmayer, Geroly

TITLE: Trio Kontraszt

LABEL: BMC 215

TUNES: Fragment I/ Fragment II/ Billiard/ Fragment III/ Fragment IV/ Slow Street/ Fragment V/  
Fragment VI/ Ostinato Barbaro Prelude/ Ostinato Barbaro/ Fragment VII/ Fragment VIII/ Fragment IX/  
Hoping/ Fragment X/ Bird Lover 48:38

PERSONNEL: Istvan Grenco ts, bass clt, alto flt; Steven Kovacs Tickmayer, p, org, harmonium, celesta;  
Tamas geroly, d, perc, gardon Budapest, 27 October 2013

Like so many of those on Leo from Russia, here are three Hungarians playing in a similar mode: classically trained musicians improvising in a jazz manner. On this CD the forms change with the Fragments clearly in the contemporary classical vein, while the other pieces are jazzy. The fragments are all relatively short and reflect classical composition, even though at times we hear a nice jazzy saxophone as in "Fragment VII". "Slow Street" is very bluesy with some nice breathy tenor work by Grenco. And I love his bass clarinet on "Bird Lover".

My favorite tracks are the Ostinatos. The Prelude sounds classical, getting ready to introduce a long work based on the material presented, but the main piece is much jazzier and cooks. The foundation is an ostinato on the piano, which connects both pieces. And "Hoping" really cooks. The trio play extremely well together. This is especially apparent on the improvised fragments which sound composed, while the actual composed tunes "Billiard," "Slow Street," and "Bird Lover" have distinct melodies but are well developed by improvisation.

Bernie Koenig

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