

## A musical celebration for everyone

The "Black Forest Jazz Orchestra" got things off to a furious start in the packed Südsterne car dealership. The 17-piece formation offered an exciting, energetic big band sound of excellent quality, rarely heard titles in sophisticated, modern arrangements, which nevertheless did not deny the reference to old master Count Basie. A great moment of jazz, which was greeted with enthusiastic applause from the 800 or so visitors.

Afterwards, the audience dispersed to the nine Donaueschingen venues, where nine bands covered a stylistic spectrum from Dixie to Latin. "Experiment a success" was the verdict on the first Donaueschingen Jazz Night, which was certainly not the last after such a great success. Not since the legendary Saba big band around Joe Bülow in the 1970s has there been such a high-class big band with musicians who mainly come from the three districts of this region. No wonder, the organizational and training effort is enormous, apart from the fact that it is a feat to find enough wind players, apart from a solid rhythm section, who are confident and self-assured enough to blow "full blast", to give their all without restraint. That's how it was on Saturday, an absolutely well-rounded, homogeneous sound with a lot of drive and finesse in the arrangements, partly from the pen of band leader Tom Timmler (saxophone), who, like the other protagonists Arno Haas (also saxophone) and Bernd Hufnagel on trumpet, also shone with extravagant, fast-paced solos.

In general, tracks such as "Little Pixie" and "Basic-ally Yours" by Thad Jones (to which the innovative Count Basie successor to the throne referred in most of the arrangements) offered plenty of platform for solo features over the powerful ensemble sound. Fast, shrill breaks between the choruses and the overall highly complex, imaginative and bold rhythmization of even well-known titles increasingly sent the audience into euphoria. The large sales hall could not contain the onslaught, behind the glass facades the open-air listeners bobbed along exhilaratedly. The atmosphere grew from title to title, reaching its peak with the unusual and delightfully de-arranged Gershwin hit "I got rhythm". This was pure brass power - a sound that went through your bones and marrow, ending in a piercingly shrill primal scream from the horns. "John Brown's other Body" was the encore, a spirited and melodic satire on the patriotic children's song "John Brown's Body". There is no doubt that the "Black Forest Jazz Orchestra" is a stroke of luck for the regional cultural landscape and can easily be described as its swinging musical figurehead.

Accordingly stimulated, the large company then wandered into Donaueschingen city center, where they were greeted by pulsating life. People partying in and in front of the pubs, music from all directions, Donaueschingen was in party fever, the jazz night turned into a real folk festival, uniting tournament guests and locals, tourists and neighbors, die-hard jazz fans and acoustic amateurs, old and young.

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