

Classic Hardbop: Gary Barone Organ Quintet

He has written around 180 compositions to date, and now a few more have been added. Gary Barone presented them at the premiere of his Organ Quintet at the Freiburg Jazz Night in the Jos-Fritz-Café. The American from Baden, an experienced jazz warhorse, presented straightforward, timeless hard bop that characterizes modern jazz in many ways. Edgy and melodic pieces, fast and slow ones balance each other out. Barone, who has proven himself to be a clever sound tinkerer, has written the arrangements to suit his soloists. They also give the old pieces a new shine. Trombonist Rene Mosele, for example, brings new facets with his powerful yet fluid playing, as does saxophonist Tom Timmler, who hints at expressive peaks with his warm tone on tenor and soprano. Finally, the composer adds harmonious stories on the clearly contoured trumpet. The finely tuned wind instruments, whose entries are directed by the composer with a decisive touch, shape the picture, which is unmistakably spiced up by the perfectly coordinated rhythm section. Thomas Bauser on the Hammond organ and Jörg Eckel on drums, who as always form the core of the Hammond Jazz Night, are once again reliable partners. Rich sound colors intertwine coherently with the compositions, to which they add tonal facets. The free play of the forces may not come into its own, but the high level of the soloists and a well-rounded program are convincing. It is incomprehensible that Barone had to urge the motley audience, which was packed tightly together, to be quiet.

Rainer Kobe

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