

Extremely lively post-bop

BIRD'S EYE / The still unknown Gary Barone Quintet turned out to be a real discovery at the weekend

Since bebop at the latest, it has been discovered that the formation of the quintet with two wind players (usually trumpet and saxophone) and a rhythm section has great tonal and musical potential. Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie demonstrated this impressively, for Art Blakey it became the recipe for life, Horace Silver and countless others have again and again sought and found their musical inspiration in the quintet. The American flugelhorn player Gary Barone, who was hit by a real attack of creativity some time ago, also chose the quintet formation when he wanted to bring his countless compositions to life. Barone is an unknown figure in jazz circles, having previously emerged with crossover projects, and his new American formation is equally unknown, as he only founded it last summer. So last weekend you could look forward to what was in store for you at "the bird's eye" jazz club. It was clear from the start: Gary Barone composes clearly, clearly, imaginatively and very jazzy: some numbers could be a standard that has just not yet been discovered. And it was just as clear: Here is a group at work that understands its métier and lives its post-bop with force and inspiration. Barone plays his flugelhorn quite hard compared to the old master of the instrument, Art Farmer, and often incorporates short, concise phrases into his solos. In saxophonist Tom Timmler, who produces a full and powerful sound on the tenor and a bright and clear one on the soprano (and only rarely reaches for the bass clarinet), he has a wonderful interlocutor who provides a contrasting answer. And occasionally they improvise together, sometimes supported by the precise drummer Matthias Daneck. The other two members of the rhythm section, pianist Andy Herrmann and bassist Arne Huber, seem rather unspectacular at first glance, but their playing - in the solos as well as collectively - is full of refinement and high musical culture. And together with the drummer, they provide the necessary cohesion, especially in the ravishingly precise tutti passages; a beautiful and enriching discovery, this Gary Barone Quintet. And one is pleased that Stephan Kurmann has once again put his ears in the right place.

Paul Bader

(bZ - Monday, February 12th 2001)