

VEIN feat. Glenn Ferris

Michael Arbenz piano **Thomas Lähns** bass **Florian Arbenz** drums
feat. Glenn Ferris trombone

Since VEIN was founded, the trio has regularly joined forces with guest musicians in horizon-expanding and ground breaking projects.

They have now come together again, forming an equally exciting and unconventional quartet with Glenn Ferris, the great trombonist with whom VEIN have been performing since many years.

This is the meeting point for four musicians who go way back, knowing precisely that they make a great musical match.

Just as the trio has created an almost symbiotic interplay – by bringing together its background, its stupendous musical togetherness and its concept of maximum equality for all members – it never fails to find an incredibly inspiring addition in Glenn Ferris:

Ferris, with his distinctive and modern style that is always respectful of tradition, is one of the most important saxophonists of today's jazz scene. He masterfully moves through the groove-heavy, lyrical, rhythmically and harmonically complex and open pieces and passages of the quartet's repertoire, which mainly consists of their own compositions.

And last but not least, to his younger fellow musicians, Glenn Ferris is the embodiment of a piece of jazz history: Since the 60s, he has been performing with all the jazz greats and that is precisely what he incorporates in his style and what has become a fundamental aspect for VEIN: the spirit of this music.

So this collaboration is based on the utmost mutual respect; another reason why this quartet works so well together.

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Michael Arbenz has been active as leader of various bands during the last couple of years. They gave concerts throughout Europe and recorded several CDs. Internationally renowned musicians such as Greg Osby, Wolfgang Puschnig, Glenn Ferris, Muneer B. Fennell, Kent Carter, Matthieu Michel and Marc Johnson joined his activities. He also gave classical concerts with Pierre Boulez, Paul Sacher, Jürg Wyttenbach, the Ensemble Contrechamps and Hans Zehnder, just to name a few.

At the age of thirteen, **Thomas Lähns** came to Tibor Elekes as his bass student. In 2001 he started to study the double bass at the Music Academy of Basle under Wolfgang Güttler and Botond Kostyak. In 2005 he completed his teacher's diploma. In jazz he has played with well-known musicians such as Greg Osby, Glenn Ferris or Wolfgang Puschnig, in classics he has worked under notable conductors such as Heinz Hollinger or Peter Eötvös. At the moment, Thomas Lähns is continuing his studies to obtain the concert diploma.

Florian Arbenz has been doing tours, concerts and CD-productions as lead with, Kirk Lightsey, Greg Osby, Glenn Ferris, Wolfgang Puschnig, Bennie Maupin, Matthieu Michel, Claudio Pontiggia and others. In classical music he has worked as percussionist in numerous concerts and festivals (Luzerner Festspiele, Basler Musik Forum, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival), among others with Heinz Holliger, Kent Nagano and Paul Sacher. Further, he staged in solo concerts in Europe and South America. In 2000 Florian Arbenz received the European Award of Culture (supporting his engagement in jazz and classical music).

Glenn Ferris was born in Los Angeles and worked in the USA with the Billy Cobham Band, Brecker Brothers, Don Ellis Big Band, Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, John Scofield, Stevie Wonder and the Harry James Big band (to name a few). After he had moved to France he started working with Martial Solal, Steve Lacy, Louis Sclavis and Mal Waldron (to name a few). During the last few years he could be heard with Henri Texier's Azur Quartet and Quintet, Palatino (with Aldo Romano, Paolo Fresu and Michel Benita) and his own formations.

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PRESS

Nice Work, get it! A trio with a thrilling creativity!- Rolling Stone, 10.2011

Why aren't the Arbenz twins from Basel more well-known? The trio, composed of Michael on piano, Florian on drums and Thomas Lähns on bass, is without a doubt one of the best in Europe: energetic and imaginative, highly virtuoso, surprising and with seldom heard blind confidence in their performance together. Any wind musician wanting to play with this triumvirate would be offered a dream rhythm section, provided he or she is in the same league... - Beat Blaser, Argauer Zeitung, 26.11.10

...Many critics believe that the young pianist Michael Arbenz is on the threshold of becoming an international star of which more is yet to come. What a stroke of luck to have a brother (Florian Arbenz) who is arguably one of the best drummers in Europe and winner of the European Culture Award for his dedication in the field of jazz and classical music. He effortlessly masters all styles of drumming, his solos tell soft, loud and incredibly exciting stories - often in duet with bassist Thomas Lähns who equally deserves the status of being a prodigy...- Peter Michael Bluhm, Augsburger Allgemeine, 11.2011

Vein, a piano trio with a difference. These guys can play together (like on "Funky Monkey") at a new level of straight-eight interaction... They don't really sound like anybody, but do proceed (way) out of the Evans-Bley tradition. Anybody who wants something truly new in the piano trio format would do well to hear this one.- Grego Edwards, Cadence, NYC, 2.2010

Hifi & Records Nr.4 2011 Vein..., one of the most enthusiastic and interesting piano trios in recent years... I must confess I am an official Vein fan. Since their debut, this trio has become as important to me as Esbjörn Svensson!!!- Ben Williams, Concerto, 10.11