

VITAL WEEKLY

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PETER ARTS VAN DER ZANDEN & FRED VAN DUIJNHOFEN – Birds' Song (CD by P.J.J.)

The minor city of Nijmegen in Holland used to be good soil for innovative jazz and improvised music. For many years there was a lively scene. But is not fair just to speak in the past tense, as there still is activity, although I don't know much of younger generations stepping in. Anyway with 'Birds' Song' we are in the company of two veterans of the Nijmegen-scene who are still in business. Both were members of Wave an ensemble led by saxophonist Jos Engelhard, some 30 years ago. Fred van Duijnhoven performed a lot with I company, ensembles of Ig Henneman, a.o. Van der Zanden is experienced as a member of diverse ensembles performing classical and modern composed music. In 2017 both met again and van der Zanden made his return jazz and improvisation. Resulting in this sympathetic duo effort. Birdsongs fascinate van Duijnhoven already for a long time and make a common thread concerning the albums released under his own name. Already in 1996 he released 'Bellbird', inspired on birdcalls, in duets with bassist Pieter Douma and vocalist Niels Derks. 'Bird's nest' for solo drum followed in 2002 and also for the single cd 'Breuk' (2013), birdscalls inspired van Duijnhoven. Now, we are six years later and van Duijnhoven surprises once again with a work in this line: 'Birds'Song'. The combination of flute and drums may sounds unusual, but while listening it soon becomes evident this makes very good sense here. The ten titles on the cd are for the biggest part compositions by van der Zanden en van Duijnhoven. Van der Zanden composed three and van Duijnhoven composed one track. 'Freedom Jazz Dance' is a composition by American saxophonist Eddie Harris. Van Duijnhoven is not the kind of drummer who concentrates solely on beat and rhythm. Instead he includes other aspects in his playing as well, as for example melody. The music is relaxed but a lot happens. It is joy to listen to all movements and gestures made by van Duijnhoven. Very full-grown music with warm playing by van der Zanden. Quality delivered by dedicated and experienced musicians who follow their own way. (DM)

— Address: <http://peterartsvanderzanden.bandcamp.com/album/birds-song>