



Nicole Johänttgen

Labyrinth

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Distribution: NicoleJohaenntgen.com

Distribution France: Baco Music

Nicole Johänttgen – saxophone

Jon Hansen - tuba

David Stauffacher – percussion

special guest Victor Hege – sousaphon

Written and produced by
Nicole Johänttgen and SRF 2 Kultur.

Recorded by Andy Neresheimer
at MOH Basel September 2022..

Mixing & mastering by
Jon Hansen.

Labyrinth

On her new album „Labyrinth“, saxophonist Nicole Johänttgen meets tuba player Jon Hansen and percussionist David Stauffacher. The recording was made in public in front of an audience for Swiss Radio SRF 2.

Nicole Johänttgen’s new pieces come across as powerful. „For us, everything feels extremely fresh“ is how the musician describes the mood at the recording session. **Labyrinth is groovy, experimental, sometimes melancholic and here and there you can hear the flair of the Motown era of the 70s. When the saxophonist creates music, she likes to look deep. With her, everything has to do with feeling and reflecting on life. The title track „Labyrinth“ symbolises exactly this inner mobility when the band lets a third motif wander through many harmonic levels.** „Canyon wind“ transports a subtle 6/8 groove. Everyone **moves in a trance.** „Goodnight my Dear“ comes up with a sophisticated polyphonic structure and in „Get up and Dance“ tuba and percussion create a kind of driving disco beat. Even more: **the tuba itself becomes a percussion instrument and on two compositions you can even hear a second bass instrument. Nicole invited the French sousaphone player Victor Hege as a special guest for two songs.** The album contains **many nice surprises.** The „Little Song for Nene!“ is a lovely ballad which Nicole Johänttgen dedicated to her child. **Here Nicole Johänttgen alternates between saxophone and vocals without a band.** A few months earlier, Johänttgen’s father gave his beloved Elvis Presley microphone to his daughter. It is a new version of the old well-known Shure Unidynes 556.

„Labyrinth“ is jazz as Nicole Johänttgen understands it. It is the art of resolving contradictions. Everything sounds as if it had been created somewhere outside, spontaneously at a session. But there is much more behind it. The unconventional instrumentation of saxophone, tuba and percussion offers **unexpected new possibilities.** Nicole Johänttgen is an experienced musician who plays her saxophone sensitively and **expressively with all kinds of virtuoso and, above all, natural technical tricks up to a kind of slap technique.**

Nicole Johänttgen has recorded 25 albums to date, has received several awards and was awarded the Saarland Art Prize 2022 in January and the Lichtenburg Prize 2023 in May.

„Nicole has something very special in her playing – a big and generous heart. An exceptional energy!“ David Liebman

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