

Liner Notes Gina Schwarz „pannonica“ **ENGLISH**
(Christoph Huber, Porgy & Bess, Vienna, November 2019)

[...] “Gina Schwarz has formed a democratically functioning collective of handpicked exceptional musicians; each with a unique and unmistakable voice. Particularly fascinating is the experience of hearing how unconventional art can sound so free-spirited and yet pleasing to the common listening.” (Hannes Schweiger)

“Pannonica de Koenigswarter, born Kathleen Annie Pannonica Rothschild, was one of the most important promoters of Modern Jazz”, according to the entry in Wikipedia. Kathleen was closely connected to Thelonious Monk as well as to his family, and in return for her selfless support as benefactress he dedicated several compositions to her.

“Pannonica” - arguably one of Monk’s most known works - is also the namesake of this fascinating project by the “Baroness of the low notes and deep sounds”, Gina Schwarz. Gina pays tribute to the patronage of Kathleen Rothschild and at the same time opens up a conscious female “sight for listening“. Gina Schwarz’s new excellently cast formation *pannonica* started as a stage band at Porgy & Bess Jazz club in Vienna during the 2017/18 Season. A profile of this work is captured on this double CD: CD 1 “*Musicbox*“, and the newly arranged material on CD 2 “*Free Landscape*”.

Gina Schwarz acts as a prudent but sovereign bandleader, and is known to be a gifted and fascinating bass player, as well as a composer and an arranger. Her music leaves a lot of room for interpretation, which creates a fascinating interplay, exciting solos, as well as an ever-surprising flow of ideas for co-musicians and listeners alike.

The project invited international female composers and musicians as special guests, who performed their task exceptionally on eight highly variable and exciting evenings.

Gina Schwarz has been a bandleader of formations like “Schwarzmarkt” or “Jazzista”, as well as coordinating projects like “Union”, featuring Jim Black. Over time she has become a highly productive catalyst of the present Austrian jazz scene. This recording is a sustainable proof thereof. The Baroness de Koenigswarter died in 1988. A book titled “The Jazz Musician and her three wishes” was published posthumously. I highly recommend it! To quote Duke Ellington: “My wishes are very modest - I want nothing but the best”. With *pannonica*, Gina Schwarz comes very close to Ellington’s paradigm. Chapeau!
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Liner Notes – Special Guests

“I loved playing with *pannonica* in 2018, initiated by Gina. What a fine bandleader, composer and bassist she is! I am impressed by the special instrumentation and their approach to playing - everyone is going all in for the music with real openness.” **Marilyn Mazur**
(Percussion, Drums US / DK)

“Gina and *pannonica* provide a landscape of beautiful and intricate listening adventures. They take our ears on a luscious adventure through open, pastoral moments, morphing organically into wonderful solo moments, all orchestrated and supported by Gina’s wonderful writing. An album that will inspire hours of listening and enjoyment for sure!”

Ingrid Jensen (Trumpet CA / US)

“With this ensemble Gina has created a very diverse and thus super inspiring pool of creativity. It was a tremendous pleasure to dive into her original music with those awesome musicians.” **Angelika Niescier** (Saxophon PL / DE)

“Gina Schwarz's *pannonica* creates sonic landscapes, which are full of beautifully crafted musical intricacies and a clear and bold emotional connection to each note. Being part was an experience that greatly enriched me as a musician.” **Camila Meza** (Guitar, Vocals CL / US)

“Being invited to play with *pannonica* is like receiving a nice gift. The musicians involved in this project take amazingly good care of your music and refine it! The best present a composer/songwriter could ask for! What a beautiful and genius concept initiated by Gina Schwarz. *Pannonica* creates so many new musical universes, which wouldn't have existed otherwise ... connecting musicians all over!” **Karin Hammar** (Trombone SE)

“It was so much fun and an honor to be part of Gina's *pannonica* with all these wonderful musicians! She is an experienced leader, great musician and composer and full of energy and fresh ideas. We need more of these special moments where everybody is opening up to create something new and inspiring. Thanks Gina!” **Julia Hülsmann** (Piano DE)

“Playing with Gina's *pannonica* in 2018 was really deeply rewarding, their dedication was inspiring; all great and sincere musicians, really good at experimenting and pushing themselves to find other spaces.” **Sylvie Courvoisier** (Piano CH / US)

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[...] „Gina Schwarz hat aus der Zusammenstellung handverlesener MusikerInnen ein zutiefst demokratisch funktionierendes Kollektiv geformt, in dem jede/jeder ein unüberhörbares Stimmrecht hat. Ausnehmend spannend das Erleben, wie man auf unkonventionelle Art freigeistig konventionell klingen kann.“ (Hannes Schweiger)

„Pannonica de Koenigswarter, geb. Kathleen Annie Pannonica Rothschild, war eine der wichtigsten Förderinnen des Modern Jazz.“ So steht es in ihrem Lexikon-Eintrag, und auch, dass sie mit Thelonious Monk, der sich für ihr selbstloses Tun als Gönnerin gleich mit mehreren ihr gewidmeten Kompositionen revanchierte, und seiner Familie eng verbunden war. „Pannonica“ ist eine davon, und so lautet auch der Titel eines spannenden Projektes rund um die „Baroness der tiefen Töne“, Gina Schwarz, die einerseits das Mäzenatentum der Namensgeberin wieder in Erinnerung ruft (solche Menschen gehen schon seit Langem ab!) und andererseits damit einen bewusst femininen „Hörblick“ eröffnet. Dieses Projekt startete als Stageband im Porgy & Bess, es wurden Komponistinnen und Musikerinnen eingeladen, die ihre Aufgabe meisterhaft lösten und für insgesamt acht höchst unterschiedliche und spannende musikalische Abende sorgten. Einen Querschnitt aus diesen Arbeiten gibt es auf dieser Doppel-CD nachzuhören (CD 1 „Musicbox“), plus neu konzipiertes Material (CD 2 „Free Landscape“) mit jener Band, die in der Saison 2017/18 allmonatlich auf der Bühne stand, also als bestens eingespielt gilt. Gina Schwarz fungiert als umsichtige und souveräne Bandleaderin, die sich als gewiefte und kompetente Komponistin und Arrangeurin

auszeichnet und ihrer hervorragend besetzten Formation viel Freiraum lässt, der höchst spannend solistisch und kollektiv eingenommen wird. Gina Schwarz, die seit vielen Jahren eigenen Formationen wie „Schwarzmarkt“, „Woodclock“ oder „Jazzista“ vorsteht oder Projekte wie jenes mit ihrem amerikanischen Namensvetter Jim Black realisiert, entwickelte sich im Laufe der Zeit zu einem produktiven Katalysator und zu einer stabilen, kreativen Stütze der aktuellen austriakischen Jazzszene. Diese Einspielung bestätigt diese Einschätzung nachhaltig.

Die Baroness de Koenigswarter verstarb 1988 – posthum erschien ein Buch mit dem Titel „Die Jazzmusiker und ihre drei Wünsche“ (empfehlenswert!). Duke Ellington meinte darin: „Meine Wünsche sind sehr bescheiden ... Ich will nichts als das Beste.“ Gina Schwarz kommt mit „Pannonica“ dem Ellington'schen Paradigma schon sehr nahe. Chapeau! (Christoph Huber, Porgy & Bess, Wien im November 2019)

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