

PRESS INFORMATION

NEWS & EVENTS OF SEMMEL CONCERTS VERANSTALTUNGSSERVICE GMBH

A Shark in the Aquarium

Salut Salon

Tour 2011/2012

A shark in the aquarium? That is not so difficult in musical terms. You take the quiet underwater world which Camille Saint-Saens once composed for his "The Carnival of the Animals", and allow the tango furore of an Ástor Piazzolla to rudely disturb the peace. The Argentinian shark "Escualo" is then suddenly swimming in the French "aquarium" – and repeatedly and surprisingly keeps recurring as a musical motif in the new programme of the Hamburg quartet Salut Salon. The founders of the quartet, Angelika Bachmann (violin) and Iris Siegfried (violin and vocals), have been working hard with Sonja Lena Schmid (violoncello) and Anne von Twardowski (piano) on the new "Shark in the Aquarium" arrangements alongside their ongoing tour of Germany. The premiere will be in the Thalia Theater Hamburg on 7 July.

The four musicians have picked two fitting title heroes for their new programme in the form of the Frenchman Camille Saint-Saens and the Argentine Astor Piazzolla. Kindred spirits, so to speak, who in their time as composers were just as willing to experiment as Salut Salon are today. Astor Piazzolla not only revived Argentine tango music, he was also a passionate deep sea fisher. He reputedly once said, "If I can't catch another shark in the sea, I will also stop being able to play the bandoneón". This battle interested him: wrestling with one another, pulling and being pulled – in its intensity this image certainly corresponds to the way that the four musicians of Salut Salon have also arrived at their music programme. They battle away passionately to create every piece, change the originals, leave parts out, add lyrics, rewrite pieces in a virtuoso manner – until this special tension of rhythm and speed emerges which corresponds to their joy of playing music and makes up the essence of Salut Salon.

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In the new programme there are also film music adaptations, puppet shows with Oskar on the piano and on the violin, cryptic couplets that they composed themselves, folk music from Ireland, Russia and Finland which is always in the respective local language no matter how outlandish it is, and also the Chinese pop song which helped the musicians to achieve their breakthrough when they performed in Shanghai – they combine anything that can be combined with classical music. Their trademark: classical music without being afraid of very bold cross-over elements.

The mixture makes the difference: sometimes it is a concert displaying the highest levels of technique, virtuoso as solos and unbeatable as an ensemble; sometimes a show with artistic elements, always clad in a little black dress and breathtaking high heels, authoritative and self-mocking – it is no surprise that Salut Salon has thus broken with the conventions of standard classical concerts. However, it is also a reason for the great success that the quartet has been able to celebrate year on year. You don't have to be a passionate concert-goer to visit the concerts of Salut Salon. Maybe you will enjoy the evening in a different way if you recognise which pieces the music was based on. But even those who do not know Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" will enjoy a beautiful summer. The love of music and the desire for passion suffice.

"A shark in the aquarium" is the fourth programme which Salut Salon will be exclusively presenting at the Thalia Theater Hamburg. Following the premiere on 7 July the ladies from Hamburg will be performing in their favourite theatre until 23 July. Following this "A Shark in the Aquarium" will be going on tour throughout Germany.

You can obtain additional information and photographic material at
www.semmel.de and www.salutalon.de
