

# PINDAKAAS

## SAXOPHON QUARTETT

A generous and refined tone is one of the hallmarks of the Pindakaas Saxophone Quartet, a classical music ensemble that has been appearing all over Europe for the past twenty-five years, performing not only at chamber recitals and at sacred music concerts but also at prestigious festivals. At the International Chamber Music with Saxophones Masterclass, the musicians were awarded the organization's Culture Prize. The group has performed in Kuwait, Scotland, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. It was with a touch of humour that the four musicians chose the Dutch name "Pindakaas" for themselves. It means "peanut butter". As a result there is always a breath of fresh air at their concerts, which the players present in highly entertaining ways.

It is with altogether brazen virtuosity that the members of the Pindakaas Saxophone Quartet bring together disparate worlds of music onstage, worlds that range from Baroque and Classical music to the tango nuevo and modern music. Criss-crossing Germany from Rostock to the Black Forest and from Emden to Munich, the four musicians appear in recital halls and churches, presenting programmes that differ substantially in terms of their content. The musicians have also made a name for themselves as arrangers: a selection of works by Kurt Weill was recently published by Universal Edition in Vienna.

**Thorsten Floth, soprano saxophone**  
**Guido Grospietsch, alto saxophone**  
**Anja Heix, tenor saxophone**  
**Matthias Schröder, baritone saxophone**

[www.pindakaas.de](http://www.pindakaas.de)

**THORSTEN FLOTH soprano saxophone**

Thorsten Floth was born in Rheine and studied the saxophone with Wolfgang Bleibel and Simone Otto on the Münster Campus of the Detmold Academy of Music. Even while still a student he had already developed a particular fondness for the saxophone quartet. He has been working as a freelance musician since the mid-nineties. His field of activity is extensive, ranging, as it does, from the saxophone quartet and other chamber formations to the symphony orchestra, jazz, big bands and rock bands. Thorsten Floth plays in musicals and theatre productions all over Germany and is also in great demand as a teacher.

**GUIDO GROSPIETSCH alto saxophone**

Guido Grospietsch was born in Duisburg and studied initially with Remy Filipovitch at the Folkwang School of Music, while also pursuing a parallel course at the Lower Rhineland School of Art and Music in Duisburg, where he was awarded the Sponsorship Prize of the Köhler-Osbahr Foundation. He later studied music with Theo Jörgensmann at the University of Duisburg and also had private lessons with the New York jazz saxophonist Jesse Bennett and attended a masterclass with the Raschèr Saxophone Quartet. Guido Grospietsch works as a freelance musician as well as a photographer and a music teacher. Among the many ensembles that he conducts are the BigBang Saxophones.

**ANJA HEIX tenor saxophone**

Anja Heix was born in Essen and studied music at the Folkwang University of the Arts, where her teachers included Hugo Read (saxophone) and Pierre W. Feit (oboe) and where she also completed a postgraduate course in concert performing. As an orchestral musician she has worked in theatres in Duisburg, Münster, Aachen and Wuppertal. She performs regularly with the Detmold Landestheater Orchestra. Her multiple talents as an oboist, saxophonist, flautist and clarinetist have taken her to theatres all over Germany. Among the musicals in which she has performed are *Starlight Express*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables*. She is also a studio musician and a music teacher.

**MATTHIAS SCHRÖDER baritone saxophone**

Matthias Schröder was born in Oberhausen and initially studied the piano before turning to the clarinet and saxophone. He attended masterclasses at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. While working as a musician, he also studied history and journalism in Bochum and Münster, gaining his doctorate at the University of Münster. A grant from the Bertelsmann Foundation allowed him to study as a music critic. Matthias Schröder works as a musician, journalist and music dramaturge. He is also the artistic director of the Bagno Concert Gallery in Steinfurt and holds a professorship in music management at the Detmold Academy of Music.

## **America!**

The Pindakaas Saxophone Quartet's latest chamber music programme features music from the New World and includes classics such as Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Chick Corea's *Children's Songs* alongside the contemporary *North American Suite* for saxophone quartet. Presented in entertaining ways, their virtual tour of North America takes in Gershwin's jazz classics as well as the exciting world music of Mike Curtis from Oregon.

## **Voyage: Canzona à quattro**

With its programme "Voyage" the Pindakaas Saxophone Quartet undertakes a virtuoso voyage across the centuries. In the course of it the saxophone opens up worlds of sound that range from the organistic and orchestral sonorities of Baroque composers to the elegant world of Classical and Romantic chamber musicians. The programme of these four versatile saxophonists includes not only Giovanni Gabrieli's *Canzona à quattro* and music by Johann Sebastian Bach but also Isaac Albéniz's *Suite espagnole* that is a credit to guitarists. An entirely original contemporary piece is Arvo Pärt's *Summa*, which takes us into a world of meditation. The result is a voyage of discovery into the world of chamber music and one, moreover, that is presented in highly entertaining ways.

## **Shakespeare's Dreams: The Sorrows of Love and the Joys of Life**

Lovelorn sighs and death from love: John Dowland's strangely melancholic songs resonate with a peculiarly British quality that left its mark on an entire age, the Golden Age of Elizabeth I and Shakespeare: that quality was a bitter-sweet "delightful melancholy". Two centuries of love are brought to vibrant life by the singing and playing of the countertenor Joachim Diessner from Isensee and the Pindakaas Saxophone Quartet, creating a fascinatingly new experience in early music with works by Dowland, Purcell and Handel. The actor Frank Dukowski, who created a sensation with his production of *Hamlet* in a bouncy castle in Brandenburg, reveals great skill and sensitivity in embellishing the music with words by Shakespeare: "If music be the food of love, play on!"

## **Ballads of Good Life**

This is a literary and musical programme about exile and freedom that follows in the footsteps of Kurt Weill, Astor Piazzolla and Igor Stravinsky and features the Berlin-based actor Frank Dukowski. Sensitive staging, both the music and the texts by Kurt Tucholsky, Franz Kafka, Klaus Mann, Alfred Döblin, Rose Ausländer, Erich Kästner and Walter Benjamin take audiences to Berlin, New York, Eastern Europe and across the Atlantic Ocean.

## Scenes from Childhood

This is a programme that presents musical images of childhood extending from Romanticism to the modern world, a highly entertaining kaleidoscope of a child's world featuring works by Robert Schumann, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Dmitry Kabalevsky, Francis Poulenc and Chick Corea interspersed with texts by Goethe, Heine, Rilke and Wilhelm Busch.

## Fantasia

Composers of all periods, whether working in the fields of classical music or film music, have drawn their inspiration from the world of their own imagination, creating colourful and amusing pieces that evoke images of fabulous beasts, real-life creatures and exotically foreign worlds. *Fantasia* brings to life a number of unknown works by well-known composers as well as the long-forgotten, painterly theatre music of the English composer Albert Ketèlbey and the brilliantly thrilling film music of a composer like John Williams.

