

AHL6



(C) Stefanie Freynschlag

Thomas Liesinger – trumpet, fx
Robert Schröck – alto saxophone
Leonhard Skorupa – tenor saxophone, clarinet
Markus W. Schneider – electric guitar, fx
Tobias Pöcksteiner – upright bass
Lukas Aichinger – drums, composition

Homepage

<http://www.lukasaichinger.at/ahl6.html>

Audio

<https://ahl6.bandcamp.com/releases>

Video

<https://youtu.be/WZCxfA9ikS8>

Press photo - download

<http://www.lukasaichinger.at/ahl6.html#Contact>

Current release

„Thinker Try To Dance“

Release: 29. Mai 2020 on Waschsalon Records

Contact

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Info (long)

Jazz may once have referred to a particular style, but it has always described a particular approach to making music – relevant, egalitarian, and above all one that allows its practitioners the freedom to express themselves without fear of crossing some invisible boundary. More than anything else, jazz is a borderless music – and Lukas Aichinger's AHL6 embodies this understanding.

There's a whole lot to like about this record: the leader's risk-taking and gratifyingly solid playing; guitarist Markus W. Schneider's seemingly endless sonic invention (and, occasionally, his unabashed guitar-hero stylings); a muscular horn section able to deliver precision without sacrificing sound. The improvising is thoroughly convincing, but the real star here is the ensemble and the music itself: Aichinger's compositions are dense without being busy, complex and quirky but not alienating. A little reminiscent of Sex Mob or John Lurie and the Lounge Lizards, each piece guides the listener with a steady hand along the paths conceived by the composer. The title track, "Thinker Try To Dance", lives up to its name: a four-and-a-half-minute odyssey in shifting, truncated rhythms and displaced accents – but it's also weirdly danceable. Granted, it might be the kind of dance you'd do while wearing two different shoes, but it's definitely got a groove all its own. And there are simpler pleasures as well: the funky, Scofieldian "Duck Disco" or the spacious "DMIAL" invite us to simply sit back and enjoy the ride.

Aichinger's inspiration comes largely from current societal developments, particularly our ongoing negotiation with new technologies – and these ideas find their way into the pieces as well; glitchy electronic effects from guitar and trumpet(!) are woven seamlessly into the music, as if to say yes, it's a weird new world, but we may yet make our peace with it. In short, AHL6 has created a world of sound all its own – urgent, packed with surprises and open in heart and mind.

- Phil Yaeger

Info (short)

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- Phil Yaeger

Press

"Compact, cleverly structured, yet surprising music written by drummer Lukas Aichinger"

– Andreas Felber, Ö1

„AHL6 fill the jazz theory with life through clever interplay, permanent musical transgressions as well as a big wealth of ideas and in doing so celebrate a sound that reveals extremely exciting idiosyncrasies.“

– Michael Ternai, mica

"Thinker Try To Dance - excellent album...a bit quirky but really enjoyable and distinctive"

- Peter Slavid, European Modern Jazz on the radio

"Chapeau! There is really something to the inventiveness of the Viennese Jazz scene."

- Günter Hottmann, hr2 kultur

"Thinker Try To Dance" is introverted and wired, but cannot hide its funny personality. The multiple, concentrated listening opens up the structures and the bandleader's detailed style of composition. In connection with checked-out casual interplay this brings an entertaining short listening hour, which as a never-ending firework of ideas definitely belongs to the spearhead of current domestic releases."

- Xavier Plus, skug

"How he (Lukas Aichinger) uses the instruments, how strange they sound, is great puzzle fun. Salvation follows on foot, because the band can also do "normal" jazz, music that sounds easier than it really is. A great talent test (praise also the great cover), you will hear a lot of good things from these guys!"

- Irene Schwingenschlögl, Film Sound & Media

This music hardly fits into any drawer and will not necessarily encourage folk dancing. No, they are whirled, lively compositions that gush with plot twists and set legs, they are tricky and yet can be consumed with the greatest joy"

- CONCERTO-Magazine

"AHL6 - an Austrian ensemble full of youth and energy; catchy music that seems to wink to the New York Down Town scene."

- Ludovico Granvassu, Mondo Jazz-Radio Free Brooklyn

„With his debut "Thinker Try To Dance", the drummer and band leader Lukas Aichinger takes us on a crazy journey through the soundscape of his wonderful sextet. Clever, but still danceable; hectic, then worn again; diverse and yet coherent - there is a lot to discover on this album.“

- backbeat.at