

Machtige BJJF donderdag met Bram de Looze en Craig Taborn



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And where the opening of the evening was already marvelous, American pianist Craig Taborn continued the high quality lines magisterially with a specially written composition for orchestra.

With bassist Thomas Morgan, trumpeter Peter Evans and drummer Ches Smith as the “base band” and the Brussels Philharmonic consisting of over 80 (!!!) musicians, Taborn had a perfect opportunity to let his new compositions reach their full potential. And they did.

Taborn has never been a predictable composer and pianist. Ever since he appeared on the international jazz front, his music and playing have been unruly and elusive. That is why the orchestral piece he had written for this occasion made such an impression. Quite different in structure and structure and extremely adventurous and surprising in the arrangements by Michael P. Atkinson.



The Heartspoken Suite For Improvising Quartet And Full Orchestra was one for the books. Unexpected structures, surprising interludes and solo pieces were accompanied by unexpected orchestral incursions and beautifully layered melodic lines. Always surprising and impressive in form and atmosphere. Utterly intriguing and challenging.

It was one of those concerts where you sat in the front of your seat to not miss a thing these musicians were getting into. With Evans as the principal soloist (and how wonderful he is), Smith as the gifted declarer, Morgan as the ever-surprising all-rounder and the Brussels Philharmonic as the magical overlords, this was a concert like no other.

One of those concerts where you came out as crushed, in a positive sense, full of all the music that had washed over you. Full of all the sounds and atmospheres that had rolled into your head and hard for an hour. A magical experience that was almost disrupted by the quartet of musicians coming back to play a piece by Ornette Coleman without the orchestra. But in the end, that could not take away the magic of what had gone before.

With Taborn as composer and bandleader, the collaboration between Flagey and Ghent's Bijloke music center once again brought something magisterial to the fore. A breathtakingly beautiful experience.