

Marco von Orelli 6 *Close Ties On Hidden Lanes*

HATOLOGY 709

★★★★★

It's rare to encounter a debut album marked by the poise, vision and ambition that distinguishes *Close Ties On Hidden Lanes*, the superb new album by Swiss trum-

peter Marco von Orelli, but there's no missing that this is a musician with loads of ideas. After listening to the album's eight meticulously crafted, deftly arranged originals, it comes as little surprise that Orelli is fluent in jazz tradition and contemporary music. He employs 12-tone writing in his theme for the epic "Narragonia," but he gives his excellent ensemble plenty of space in the extended passages of collective improvising, while the episodic "Marsala's Strandgut" recalls the buoyant post-Stravinsky chamber-jazz feel pioneered by Dutch bassist Maarten Altena.

On other pieces Orelli is content to juxtapose and collide disparate disciplines with jazz tradition; compact horns—the leader joined by trombonist Lukas Briggen and bass clarinetist Lukas Roos—shape a sneaking, elegant melody line over a fat groove before dissolving into an effective patch of free improv, with one player at a time picking up the compositional thread. "Poetry" takes its inspiration from a visual poem by Man Ray, with the musicians playing Morse code like tones that morph from terse coldness to vocalic shapes, until some of the band actually does use their voices. Pianist Michel Wintsch is a secret weapon, alternating between shaping Orelli's structural ideas, adding oblique harmonies and extra rhythmic bounce, or enhancing textures and mood with judiciously deployed synthesizer.

—Peter Margasak

Close Ties On Hidden Lanes: Prolog; Marsala's Strandgut; Urban Ways; Poetry; Narragonia; Sweet Lotus Suite; Rrrr; Maris. (56:30)

Personnel: Marco Von Orelli, trumpet; Lukas Briggen, trombone; Lukas Roos, bass clarinet; Michel Wintsch, piano, synthesizer; Kaspar von Grünigen, bass; Samuel Dühler, drums.

Ordering info: hathut.com

