FRANZ VON CHOSSY

Mirror 9

Press texts

SHORT VERSION

The Human Being in Nine Movements

alternative: What if personality could be heard?

In his current project *Mirror 9*, pianist and composer Franz von Chossy translates the nine personality types of the Enneagram into music. In a nine-part suite, the Idealist, the Giver, the Achiever, the Individualist, the Observer, the Loyalist, the Optimist, the Boss and the Peacemaker become musical characters. Saxophone, violin, cello, bass, drums and piano tell of nine ways of perceiving the world, of feeling, and of responding to it.

The result is not a set of static portraits but a many-layered journey through different ways of thinking, feeling and perceiving the world. At times playful, at times powerful, at times introspective, *Mirror 9* lets the characters interact with one another and invites the audience to recognise themselves and others in the music.

At a time of growing polarisation, this becomes more than a musical concept: an invitation to greater empathy and a plea for the recognition that behind all our differences lies a shared human experience.

For *Mirror 9*, von Chossy has brought together some of the outstanding musicians of the Dutch jazz scene. Together they combine compositional finesse, improvisational freedom and a musical language that crosses genres.

LONG VERSION

What if personality could be heard?

With his current project *Mirror 9*, pianist and composer Franz von Chossy turns the nine personality types of the Enneagram into musical characters. In a nine-part suite we meet the Idealist, the Giver, the Achiever, the Individualist, the Observer, the Loyalist, the Optimist, the Boss and the Peacemaker: nine different ways of perceiving the world, of feeling and of responding to it.

Von Chossy does not simply translate these characters into musical clichés. Instead, he develops a coherent musical journey in which the individual personalities meet, complement each other and collide. Each movement has its own sound world, yet is part of a larger story: the story of a person who looks at himself and his surroundings from nine different perspectives.

In this way *Mirror 9* becomes a musical mirror. Listeners can recognise themselves in the various characters, as well as people from their own lives. The music offers a playful and directly sensory approach to a theme that reaches far beyond the Enneagram: how different people can be, and how hard it still is for us to truly understand someone else's perspective.

Especially at a time of growing polarisation, *Mirror 9* sets a counterpoint. The project makes differences audible without playing them off against each other, and reminds us that behind our different personalities lies a shared human experience. Music becomes a medium for empathy, self-reflection and encounter.

Mirror 9 is performed by a sextet from five European countries: José Soares (saxophone), George Dumitriu (violin, guitar), Saartje Van Camp (cello), Tijs Klaassen (bass) and Jamie Peet (drums) are among the defining voices of the Amsterdam jazz scene and are known for ignoring genre boundaries. The result is music between jazz, contemporary chamber music and groove, in which improvisation and composed dramaturgy flow seamlessly into one another.

Born in Munich and based in Amsterdam for many years, Franz von Chossy is one of the defining, genre-crossing musicians of the Dutch jazz scene. His music combines the openness of jazz with a chamber-music sensibility and a distinctive compositional voice. With his ensembles he has toured the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey and China, and received international acclaim for the album *When the World Comes Home*. His awards include winning the Dutch Jazz Competition and second prize at the Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition.

Press quotes

Franz von Chossy

“Franz von Chossy is dancing on the edges of stylistic perfection, switching from classical to folk to jazz to blues.”

Süddeutsche Zeitung

“Free spirit at the piano”

Süddeutsche Zeitung

“Hauntingly beautiful.”

Bruce Lindsay, All About Jazz (USA)

“The Franz von Chossy Group is one of the most fascinating and entertaining bands in the Netherlands.”

Tim Sprangers, de Volkskrant (NL)

“With him, magic on the keyboard is pure alchemy, a mix of the most diverse sounds.”

Henning Bolte, Jazzthetik