

Markus Stockhausen's Quadrivium

The group's beginnings go back to the year 2003, when Markus Stockhausen performed the first concerts as a duo with the beguiling pianist Angelo Comisso in Italy. The German debut came the year after at the Munich Piano Festival 'Münchener Klaviersommer' and presented, for example, its "Sound collages of fascinating beauty" (Süddeutsche Zeitung) in the town of Fürstfeldbruck.

Having expanded in 2004 to a trio with the addition of Christian Thomé, an extremely sensitive and virtuoso percussionist, a concert tour through Italy followed shortly after. In Trieste the opportunity to make some studio recordings arose. The result of these recordings can be heard on the beautiful CD "Lichtblick – prima, altrove ...", which appeared on the Cologne label Aktivraum in January 2005, and since has been very successful. Two more beautiful CDs followed, "Once about a time ... Istanti infiniti" and "Stabat Mater" by Angelo Comisso.

In 2015 cellist Jörg Brinkmann joined the group and since then they call themselves QUADRIVIUM. Jörg is the perfect match to the trio, as if he was the missing link to a new, exciting European jazz group. His playing is stunning, based like Stockhausen's and Comisso's background on classical as well as on jazz music. Together they create a beautiful new sound.

The music of QUADRIVIUM is clearly shaped by the roots of European art music. Stockhausen's and Comisso's compositions form a harmonious synthesis with the art of improvisation with a lightness, a kind of playfulness, strong emotional expressions and also sometimes humorous. All four musicians are virtuosos on their instruments and have a broad palette of playing experience. Electronic sounds enhance the group's soundscapes. The music feels close to jazz, but can amaze a more classically - or contemporary - minded audience just as much.