

from left: Marcus Rieck, Marc Brenken, Alex Morsey - photo by Daniel Morsey

Marc Brenken's musical world is rife with suprise. In his new album "It Could Happen to You", together with bassist Alexander Morsey and drummer Marcus Rieck, the pianist tells everyday stories that are all but mundane: With ants in his pants he bashes the listener "Raus ausm Bett" [out of his bed], just to join us on a bicycle ride through the rain ("Durch den Regen fahren"). We feel the heavy drops of summer rain and the head wind on our skin. Listening is pure joy, just pedalling until we have disappeared in the horizon.

With Brenken we discover the "Erbse im Holzhaufen" [pea in a woodpile]. He knows how to realise his curiosity for the world into sound like no one else does. This is what makes his compositions and performance distinctive. At the same time he is also a master of quiet tones. However, even contemplative pieces like "Lauf der Zeit" [the course of time] and "End of a Day" do not turn into melancholy navel-gazing. They are just ostensible quiet points on the way forward, always sustained by the elements of rhythm, pressing ahead.

The precision of interplay, seemingly effortless, never becomes an end in itself. Thus they accomplish, in "J&M", to repeatedly interrupt the groovy flow of the piece, just a heartbeat long, to dive into rhythmic chaos, only to groove on laconically again. Thereby, this homage to Jason Moran and Marvin Sewell becomes the concurring expression of the technical aptitude, as well as the joy and spiritedness of the three musicians' play.

Again, Marc Brenken has been fortunate with the cast: Alexander Morsey guarantees timbres that go far beyond established bass-playing. He uses his voice to produce sounds somewhere between scat and didgeridoo. On the drums, Marcus Rieck shows impressively that his art of playing is not just for the sake of rhythm, but that it also decisively puts the mood of each piece into manifold sound.

With this album, Brenken also proves that he has to tell us musical news, and that it is worthwhile to stay curious.