

Blending jazz and other genres

JAZZ IN TOWN

BY MIGUEL BRONFMAN
FOR THE HERALD

Under the auspices of the Dutch Embassy in Argentina, and invited by Argentine trumpet player Américo Belotto, Dutch jazz pianist Jan Reinen is in Argentina since the beginning of January, in a cultural interchange which includes several concerts, the recording of two albums, and a series of master classes at the School of Music in the city of La Plata, to take place next week.

Born in 1969 in Arnhem (in the Eastern region of the Netherlands, where he now lives) Reinen is a very active member in the Dutch jazz scene; besides his personal projects, he works as programmer, organizer and jam-session leader at the prestigious North Sea Jazz Festival, which takes place every year in The Hague; a post that has given him the chance, over the years, to play with the most relevant personalities of the international jazz scene.

According to trumpeter Belotto, the aim of this encounter is "To bring together Reinen's personal, unique style as a jazz pianist with different genres of Argentine and Latin-American music, and with Argentine musicians too."

For that purpose, two albums

are being recorded these days; while one of them will present a repertoire linked to Brazilian music, the other one will be more jazz-tango oriented, and will feature Alfredo Remus (double-bass), Junior Césari (drums), Angel Sucheras (piano), Luis Salinas (guitar), Rodolfo Mederos (bandoneon) and Javier Malosetti (bass and guitars).

Several concerts have also taken place since Reinen's arrival, some of them in duo with Belotto and others with guests musicians. Next Tuesday, March 6, Reinen and Belotto will perform in duo, presenting material from their joint project, and also from Reinen's latest album, *The New Jan Reinen Trio*, which consists of original material and standards like *In Your Own Sweet Way*, *Maiden Voyage* and *Dolphin Dance* (Herbie Hancock), *Black Nile* (Wayne Shorter) and *Blue in Green* (Miles Davis).

As for Belotto, he returned to Argentina a few years ago, after living in different European countries for more than a decade. A wonderful trumpet player who has mastered the language of modern jazz, Belotto has strong credentials in the international scene, having played at the core of the European circuit and taking part in renowned jazz orchestras (conducted by prominent personalities like George Gruntz, George Rus-

sell, Louie Bellson, and the Count Basie Big Band).

A promising meeting, a fruitful interchange, under the auspices of jazz.

Jan Reinen with Américo Belotto next Tuesday, March 6 at 10pm, at Todo Mundo, Anselmo Aieta 1095.

MORE DUETS

The duet format has always been one of the best vehicles for jazz improvisation; with much more room for the development of musical ideas, dialogues and also experimentation, jazz musicians frequently take a rest from other regular formats (like the quartet and quintet) to exchange experiences with fellow musicians they have a special empathy with. As it offers more freedom, though, the duet format also presents a risky edge: while playing and improvising with just one companion is surely more difficult to disguise any lack of ideas (the ever present "threat" in improvised music); any mistake will be more noticeable, and the dependability between the two players becomes simply essential: if only one of them is on an inspired evening the duet will be, at least, out of balance.

These risky elements, however, have always been at the heart of improvised jazz, and they usually help achieve memorable perfor-



Musicians Juan Pablo Arredondo and Hernán Merlo.

mances. Electric guitar player Juan Pablo Arredondo and double-bassist Hernán Merlo represent a safe bet in a format that musicians like Pat Metheny and Charlie Haden (guitar and double-bass, respectively) have successfully explored before.

The following night, the talent of Enrique Norris will meet the ardent and inspiring drumming of Pepi Taveira. While Norris plays trumpet, keyboards and other instruments, Taveira adds to the standard drum set an array of

African percussion instruments. They have been working together for some time, and they will present material from their forthcoming album. Both musicians like free jazz sonorities and feel comfortable in abstract territories, so theirs will probably be an intense encounter in search of the unexpected.

Today at 9.30pm (Arredondo and Merlo) and Friday 2 at 10.30pm (Norris-Taveira), at Virasoro Bar, Guatemala 4328. Tel: 4831-8918.