

Sorrow Mixed With Joy

Unusual Concert in the Pauluskirche

By Felicias Zink

BONN - It is smaller than an Alto Blockflöte; made of American cedar, has only seven holes and is, as is not uncommon in Asian music, tuned to the pentatonic scale. The instrument, named in the program as a “traditional American flute” of Cherokee Indian heritage, with its astonishingly strong tone was used often and with versatility by the Hevreh Ensemble.

The four New York musicians were received by a large audience in the Pauluskirche in Bonn, which took in, in the mood-lit church, the sound of the Oboe (Judith Dansker), Clarinet (Laurie Friedman), Bass Clarinet (Jeff Adler), Keyboard (Adam Morrison), various percussion instruments and the above mentioned Indian Flute.

On the program were chamber music compositions, many from their album “Between Worlds” that was released in 2012. Elements of Klezmer, Jazz and World Music characterized the pieces. Sadness, thoughtfulness but also exuberant joy and even a musical prayer for world peace was included on the musical program, which the four New Yorkers, who are also employed as music lecturers presented. The pieces with titles like “Hawk Sightings” or “Circles of Solstice” came from the pen of Jeff Adler.

The quartet, which with its unusual combinations, rhythmic Arabesques, melodious Cantilenas and most importantly, with noticeable accord, left a lasting impression, so that two hours of music from completely different cultures, but always understandable human feelings, went by in a flash.

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