

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER

INTAKT RECORDS

Irène Schweizer writes jazz history, and this catalogue documents the musical work of the jazz pianist. Demonstrating a responsibility for the music, Intakt Records, in collaboration with the artist, has made a carefully curated selection of work accessible. Given the abundance of artistic production, this is a project that is still far from being completed.

The compilation reveals the main focuses of Irène Schweizer's music. The great solo recordings, which present the broad spectrum of the musician. The piano-drums works with the most important percussionists in jazz today. The feminist manifestos with musicians like Joëlle Léandre, Maggie Nicols, Marilyn Crispell and Co Streiff. The close connection to the tradition of black American jazz with Don Cherry, John Tchicai, Andrew Cyrille, Hamid Drake, Fred Anderson and George Lewis. The love for South African jazz with Louis Moholo. And Irène Schweizer, the European, in collaboration with Pierre Favre, Barry Guy, Han Bennink, Günter Baby Sommer, Jürg Wickihalder, Omri Ziegele. Capturing all of this creativity is an ongoing pursuit that will take many years. A long journey into the depth and breadth of Irène Schweizer's improvisation which we endeavour to undertake for the benefit of the listener.

Intakt Records

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER

Irène Schweizer schreibt Jazzgeschichte. Der vorliegende Werkkatalog dokumentiert die musikalische Arbeit der Jazzpianistin. Diese Edition zeigt die Verantwortung für die Musik: dass aus der Fülle der künstlerischen Produktion eine überlegte und überzeugende Auswahl getroffen und zugänglich gemacht wird – in enger Zusammenarbeit von Intakt Records mit der Künstlerin. Eine Arbeit, die noch längst nicht abgeschlossen ist.

Die Zusammenstellung lässt Schwerpunkte der Musik von Irène Schweizer erkennen: die grossen Solo-Aufnahmen, die das breite Spektrum der Musikerin präsentieren. Die Piano-Drums-Arbeiten mit den bedeutendsten Schlagzeugern des heutigen Jazz. Die feministischen Manifeste mit Musikerinnen wie Joëlle Léandre, Maggie Nicols, Marilyn Crispell oder Co Streiff. Die enge Verbindung zur Tradition des schwarzen amerikanischen Jazz mit Don Cherry, John Tchicai, Andrew Cyrille, Hamid Drake, Fred Anderson, George Lewis. Die Liebe zum Jazz Südafrikas mit Louis Moholo. Und Irène Schweizer, die Europäerin, in Zusammenarbeit mit Pierre Favre, Barry Guy, Han Bennink, Günter Baby Sommer, Jürg Wickihalder, Omri Ziegele. Um die gesamte Intention zu vermitteln, ist eine Verfolgung über Jahre notwendig. Ein Gang in die Breite, in die Tiefe, in die wunderbare Welt der Improvisation von Irène Schweizer. Was für ein Gewinn für die Hörerinnen und Hörer!

Intakt Records





Hamid Drake, Irène Schweizer, Fred Anderson, Willisau, August 28, 2004

Photo: Francesca Pfeffer

363

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – HAMID DRAKE
CELEBRATION**

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Hamid Drake: Drums

Recorded July 26, 2019, Konfrontationen
Nickelsdorf

Cover art: Rosina Kuhn

Liner notes: Christian Broecking





Irène Schweizer, Pierre Favre, 1994

Photo: Francesca Pfeffer



293

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – JOEY BARON
LIVE!**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Joey Baron: Drums

Recorded November 27, 2015,
unerhört!-Festival, Rote Fabrik, Zürich
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: John Corbett



254

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – HAN BENNINK
WELCOME BACK**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Han Bennink: Drums

Recorded April 13, 14, 2015,
Hard Studios Winterthur, Switzerland
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: Kevin Whitehead



228

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – PIERRE FAVRE
LIVE IN ZÜRICH**

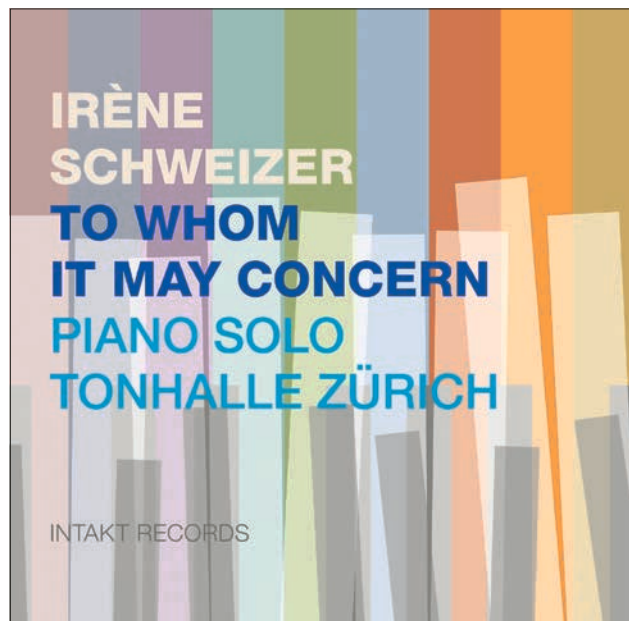
Irène Schweizer: Piano
Pierre Favre: Drums, Percussion

Recorded March 22–24, 2013,
Rote Fabrik, Zürich
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: Christian Broecking



Irène Schweizer, KKL Luzern, October 8, 2005

Photo: Francesca Pfeffer

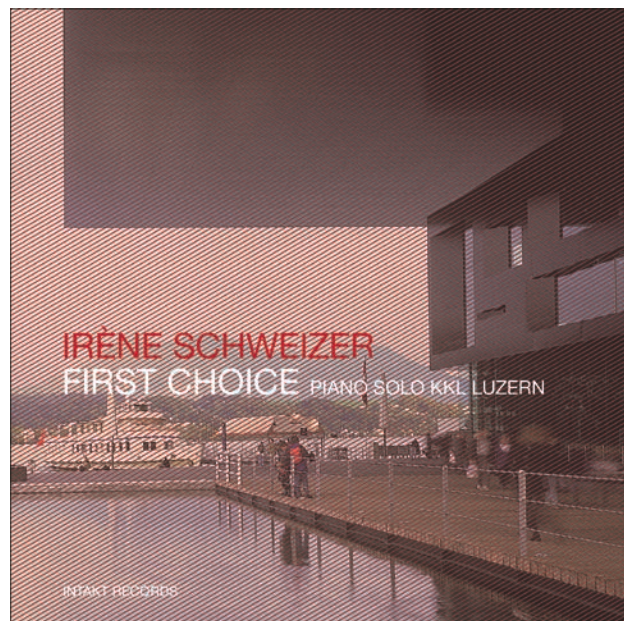


200

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
PIANO SOLO TONHALLE ZÜRICH

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded April 11, 2011, Tonhalle Zürich
 Cover art: Jonas Schoder
 Liner notes: Manfred Papst



108

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
FIRST CHOICE
PIANO SOLO KKL LUZERN

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded October 8, 2005, Kultur- und Kongresszentrum Luzern
 Cover art : Jonas Schoder
 Liner notes: Lislot Frei



Andrew Cyrille, Irène Schweizer, Oliver Lake, Reggie Workman, Zürich, November 24, 2007

Photo: F. Pfeffer



269

MUSICAL MONSTERS **WILLISAU CONCERT**

Don Cherry: Trumpet
John Tchicai: Saxophone
Irène Schweizer: Piano
Léon Francioli: Bass
Pierre Favre: Drums

Recorded August 30, 1980,
Jazzfestival Willisau
Cover art: Niklaus Troxler
Liner notes: Christian Rentsch

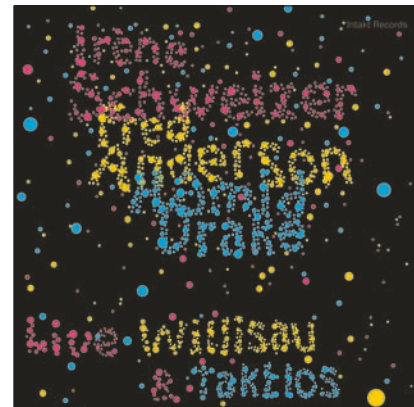


150

TRIO 3 + IRÈNE SCHWEIZER **BERNE CONCERT**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Reggie Workman: Bass
Andrew Cyrille: Drums
Oliver Lake: Alto Saxophone

Recorded November 23, 2007,
Taktlos Bern
Cover art: Oliver Lake
Liner notes: Peter Kraut



104

SCHWEIZER - ANDERSON - DRAKE **WILLISAU & TAKTLOS**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Fred Anderson: Saxophone
Hamid Drake: Drums

Recorded August 28, 2004,
Jazzfestival Willisau and March 28, 1998,
Taktlos Zürich
Cover art: Niklaus Troxler
Liner notes: John Corbett



Irène Schweizer, 1984

Photo: Gertrud Vogler



020

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
PIANO SOLO VOL. I

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded May 23, 24, 1990, Alte Kirche Boswil, Switzerland
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss



021

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
PIANO SOLO VOL. II

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded May 25, 1990, Alte Kirche Boswil, Switzerland
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss



Makaya Ntshoko, Irène Schweizer, Omri Ziegele, 2009

Photo: Francesca Pfeffer

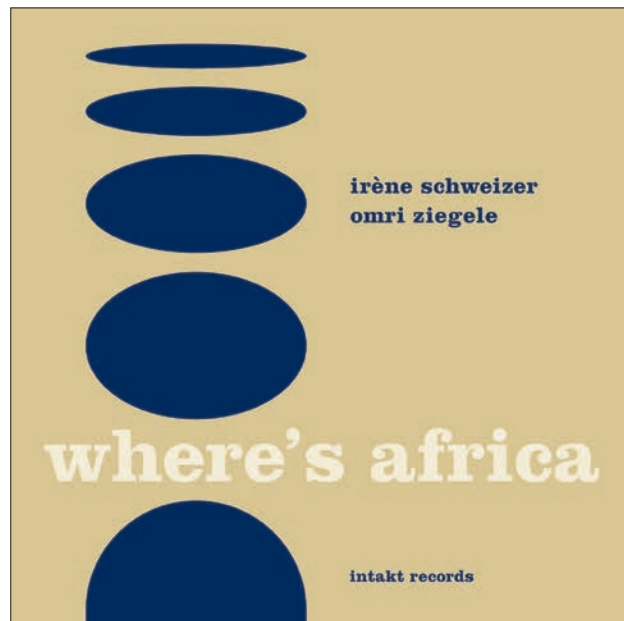


167

**OMRI ZIEGELE
WHERE'S AFRICA TRIO
CAN WALK ON SAND**

Omri Ziegele: Alto Saxophone, Voice
Irène Schweizer: Piano
Makaya Ntshoko: Drums

Recorded June, 30 and July, 1, 2009, Radiostudio Zürich
Cover art: Christoph Hauri
Liner notes: Christian Rentsch



098

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – OMRI ZIEGELE
WHERE'S AFRICA**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Omri Ziegele: Saxophone, Voice

Recorded January 14, 15, 2004, Radiostudio Zürich
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: Dieter Ulrich



Irène Schweizer, Co Streiff, 1999

Photo: Heini Füssli



234

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
JÜRG WICKIHALDER
SPRING**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Jürg Wickihalder: Saxophone

Recorded February 6, 7, 2014, Loft Köln
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: Bert Noglik

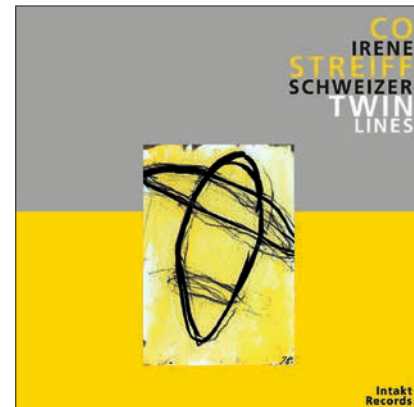


194

**JÜRG WICKIHALDER EUROPEAN
QUARTET
FEAT. IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
JUMP!**

Jürg Wickihalder: Saxophone
Irène Schweizer: Piano
Fabian Gisler: Bass
Michael Griener: Drums

Recorded 2011, Powerplay Studios, Maur
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: Art Lange



073

**CO STREIFF – IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
TWIN LINES**

Co Streiff: Saxophone
Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded 1999/2000, Radiostudio Zürich
Cover art: Jeanette Baumgartner
Liner notes: Meinrad Buholzer



Irène Schweizer, Berlin, 1977

Photo: Dagmar Gebers



071

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
WILDE SEÑORITAS
HEXENSABBAT

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Wilde Señoritas recorded November 4, 1976,
 Total Music Meeting Berlin,
Hexensabbat recorded 1977, Berlin.
 First released on FMP 1977 and 1978
 Cover art: Peter Frey
 Liner notes: Patrik Landolt

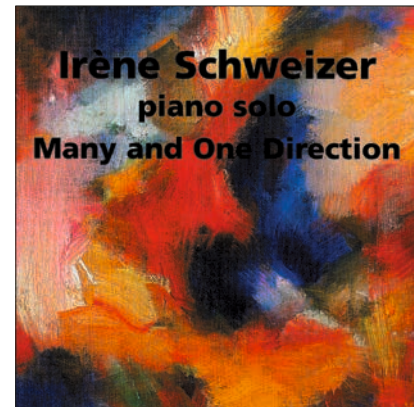


065

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
CHICAGO PIANO SOLO

Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded February 16, 2000,
 Empty Bottle, Chicago
 Cover art: Fabrizio Gilardino
 Liner notes: John Corbett



044

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
MANY AND ONE DIRECTION

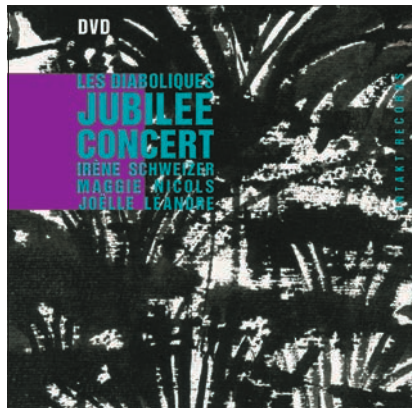
Irène Schweizer: Piano

Recorded April 4, 1996, Alte Kirche Boswil
 Cover art: Rosina Kuhn
 Liner notes: Lislot Frei



Irène Schweizer, Maggie Nicols, Joëlle Léandre, Zürich, 1994

Photo: Silvia Luckner

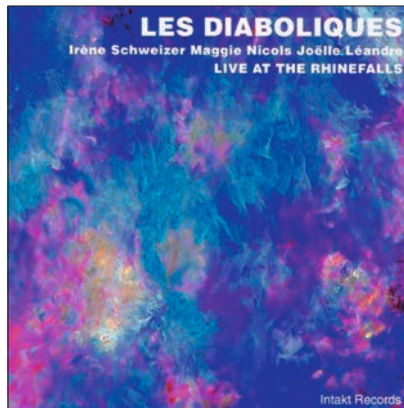


141 DVD

LES DIABOLIQUES JUBILEE CONCERT

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Maggie Nicols: Voice
Joëlle Léandre: Bass

Recorded March 3, 2006, Jazzclub Moods,
Zürich
Cover art: Rosina Kuhn
Liner notes: Irène Schweizer



059

LES DIABOLIQUES LIVE AT THE RHINEFALLS

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Maggie Nicols: Voice
Joëlle Léandre: Bass

Recorded May 21, 1997, Jazzfestival
Schaffhausen
Cover art: Rosina Kuhn
Liner notes: Werner Lüdi



033

LES DIABOLIQUES

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Maggie Nicols: Voice
Joëlle Léandre: Bass

Recorded April 23, 24, 1993, Centre
Culturelle Suisse, Paris
Cover art: Rosina Kuhn
Liner notes: Isolde Schaad

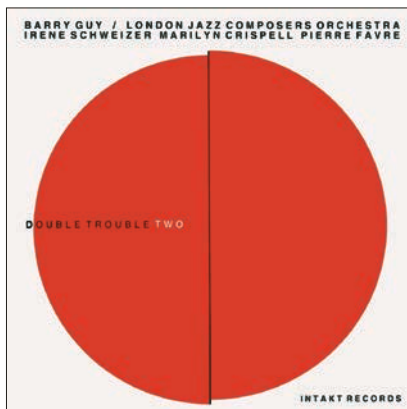


158

**BARRY GUY LONDON JAZZ
COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA
RADIO RONDO
SCHAFFHAUSEN CONCERT**

Barry Guy, Irène Schweizer, Evan Parker, Mats Gustafsson, Trevor Watts, Simon Picard, Pete McPhail, Conrad Bauer, Johannes Bauer, Alan Tomlinson, Henry Lowther, Herb Robertson, Rich Laughlin, Per Åke Holmlander, Phil Wachsmann, Barre Phillips, Paul Lytton, Lucas Niggli

Recorded May, 21, 2008, Jazzfestival
Schaffhausen
Cover art: Jonas Schoder
Liner notes: Bill Shoemaker



053

**BARRY GUY LONDON JAZZ
COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA
DOUBLE TROUBLE TWO**

Barry Guy, Irène Schweizer, Marilyn Crispell, Pierre Favre, Henry Lowther, Mark Charig, Jon Corbett, Paul Rutherford, Chris Bridges, Alan Tomlinson, Robin Hayward, Trevor Watts, Evan Parker, Simon Picard, Peter McPhail, Paul Dunmall, Phil Wachsmann, Howard Riley, Barre Phillips, Paul Lytton

Recorded December 19, 1995, Rote Fabrik,
Zürich
Cover art: Gottfried Honegger
Liner notes: Ulrich Stock



024

**BARRY GUY LONDON JAZZ
COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA
THEORIA**

Irène Schweizer, Barry Guy, Henry Lowther, Mark Charig, Jon Corbett, Conrad Bauer, Radu Malfatti, Alan Tomlinson, Steve Wick, Trevor Watts, Evan Parker, Simon Picard, Peter McPhail, Paul Dunmall, Phil Wachsmann, Barre Phillips, Paul Lytton

Recorded February 1991, Radio Studio
Zürich
Cover art: Max Bill
Liner notes: Bert Noglik



084

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
PIERRE FAVRE
ULRICHSBERG**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Pierre Favre: Drums

Recorded Mai 2, 2003
Cover art: Andrea Alteneder
Liner notes: Patrik Landolt



010

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
HAN BENNINK**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Han Bennink: Drums

Recorded January 5, 6, 1995,
Jazzclub Moods, Zürich
Cover art: Eugen Bisig
Liner notes: Ulrich Stock

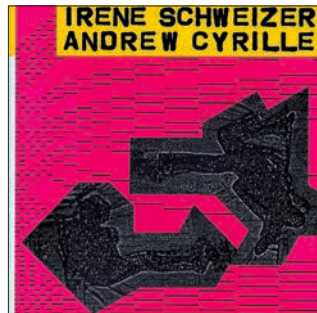


009

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
PIERRE FAVRE**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Pierre Favre: Drums

Recorded November 8, 1986
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss
Liner notes: Peter Rüedi



008

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
ANDREW CYRILLE**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Andrew Cyrille: Drums

Recorded 1988,
Jazzfestival Willisau
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss
Liner notes: Howard Mandel

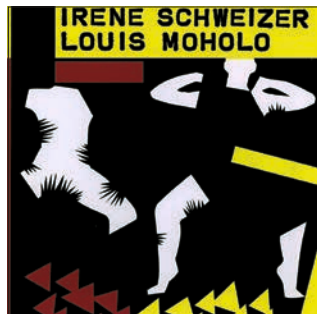


007

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
GÜNTER SOMMER**

Irène Schweizer: Piano
Günter Sommer: Drums

Recorded February 27, 1987,
Rote Fabrik, Zürich
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss
Liner notes: Bert Noglik



006

**IRÈNE SCHWEIZER –
LOUIS MOHOLO**

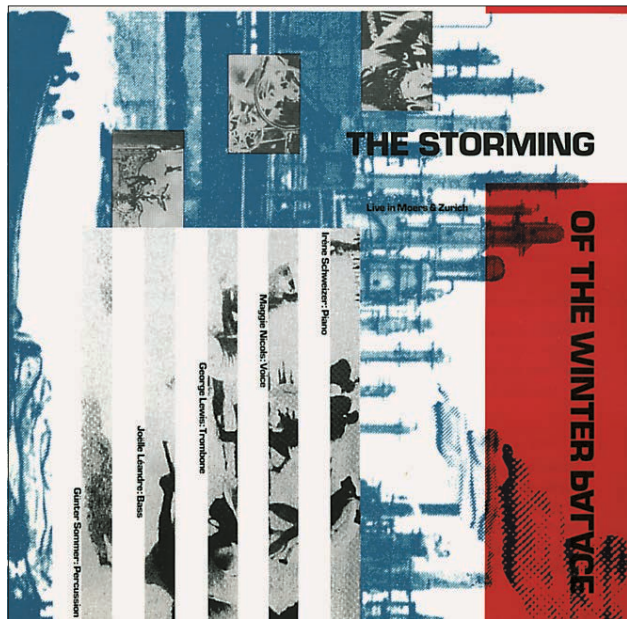
Irène Schweizer: Piano
Louis Moholo: Drums

Recorded November 8, 1986,
Jazzfestival Zürich
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss
Liner notes: Richard Butz



Louis Moholo, Irène Schweizer, London, April 18, 2017

Photo: Patrik Landolt



003

SCHWEIZER – LEWIS – NICOLS – LÉANDRE – SOMMER
THE STORMING OF THE WINTER PALACE

Irène Schweizer: Piano

George Lewis: Trombone · Maggie Nicols: Voice

Joëlle Léandre: Bass · Günter Sommer: Drums

Recorded 1986, New-Jazz-Festival Moers & 1988, Taktlos Zürich

Cover art: Ruedi Wyss

Liner notes: Michael Rieth



001

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER
LIVE AT TAKTLOS

Irène Schweizer: Piano

George Lewis: Trombone · Maggie Nicols: Voice · Joëlle Léandre: Bass

Günter Sommer: Drums · Paul Lovens: Drums

Recorded 1984, Taktlos Zürich

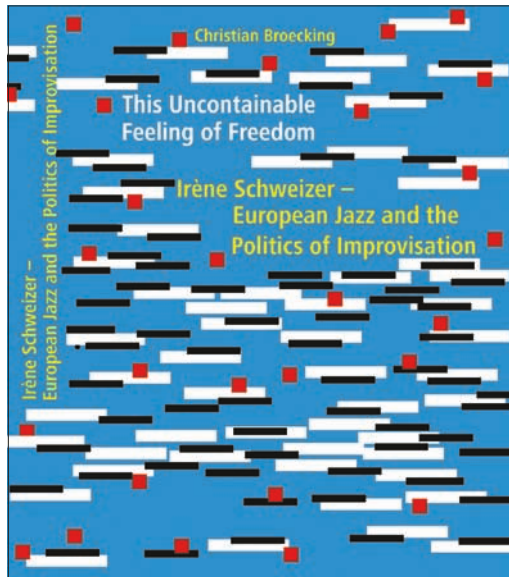
Cover art: Ruedi Wyss

Liner notes: Patrik Landolt



Irene Schweizer, Rote Fabrik Zürich, October 18, 1986

Photo: Dany Gignoux



CHRISTIAN BROECKING

THIS UNCONTAINABLE FEELING OF FREEDOM
IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – EUROPEAN JAZZ AND THE POLITICS OF IMPROVISATION

The Authorized Biography. Translated by Jeb Bishop

Published by Broecking Verlag, Hochschule Luzern, Verein Freundinnen und Freunde von Irène Schweizer

Print on demand and E-Book, 2021. Order info: intakt@intaktrec.ch

Irène Schweizer: jazz pianist, activist, icon. A self-taught musician from the Swiss village of Schaffhausen, at the age of 19 she won first prize at the Zurich amateur jazz festival. (The festival had not anticipated that a woman might win: first prize was a men's shirt.) The creative journey of this young woman from the north of Switzerland led her inexorably to experimental music: from the London jazz club Ronnie Scott's and the Zurich club Africana to avant-garde stages in Wuppertal, Berlin, Willisau, Chicago, and New York; from concerts with Don Cherry, Louis Moholo and George Lewis to solo appearances as a celebrated artist in the Swiss temples of high culture: the Lucerne Culture and Congress Centre and the Zurich Tonhalle. She fought constantly for artistic freedom and autonomy.

Christian Broecking (1957–2021) has researched and written the biography of one of the most exceptional musicians of the post-war period in Europe.

CHRISTIAN BROECKING

DIESES UNBÄNDIGE GEFÜHL DER FREIHEIT

IRÈNE SCHWEIZER – JAZZ, AVANTGARDE, POLITIK

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Information und Bestellung: intakt@intaktrec.ch

Intakt Records, P.O.Box, 8024 Zürich, Switzerland
Patrik Landolt, Anja Illmaier, Florian Keller, Fiona Ryan
Graphic design: Jonas Schoder
intakt@intaktrec.ch
www.intaktrec.ch

