

Aaron Parks Trio - Live at Jazzfest Berlin 2009

Written by bluesever

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1. *Travellers* 2. *Unravel* 3. *Siren* Aaron Parks - piano Matt Brewer - bass Tommy Crane – drums Recorded live at Jewish Museum Berlin, Glass Courtyard, November 7, 2009

Berlin's festival is well-established as one of the finer "off-season" festivals on the jazz scene, emboldened by creative and resourceful programming. In 2009, the second year programmed by a still-new director, Swedish trombonist Nils Landgren, the schedule was strong and blessed with the diversity necessary for any jazz festival, in terms of artistic cred and financial muscle. As he did last year, Landgren managed to strike some workable and impressive balances in programming, mixing up subgenres and positioning the commercial alongside the more esoteric. Not surprisingly, he also stirred in music of the Scandinavian and trombone-oriented sort.

In 2009, Berlin joined the ranks of jazz festivals paying tribute to Blue Note Records' 70th anniversary. Opening night included Terence Blanchard, stirring up his "Requiem for Katrina" project with the Deutsches Filmorchester Babelsberg, and Lionel Loueke. Robert Glasper cancelled, as did Joe Lovano, the latter on the heels of an injury, but Lovano's planned partner, the unstoppably graceful veteran Hank Jones, did go on with his trio, bringing out veterans Curtis Fuller (part of the trombone tribe in Berlin) and trumpeter Don Sickler for cameos. It's always a treat to hear Jones, a true model of taste, elegance and timeless hipness. That same night, the Blue Note focus continued, once removed and European-ized, as the NDR Big Band offered a tribute to Horace Silver with Jacky Terrasson in the piano hot seat (where he sounded distinctly unlike Silver).

A new venue in the mix this year was a vast courtyard in the Jewish Museum, the acoustical openness of which swallowed up the sensitivities of Aaron Parks' trio. --- Josef Woodard, jazztimes.com

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