

# **3 in the red circle**

**3**

**Reiner Witzel - sax**

**Joscha Oetz - bass**

**Christian Scheuber - drums**





# Band Info

... are three musicians with the saxophonist Reiner Witzel from Düsseldorf at the trio's centre. The trio, whose name refers to the title of a thriller of the "Nouvelle Vague" movement of the 1960s, is both a high-profile and highly unusual Jazz ensemble. The three musicians engage in a triologue that leaves a lot of space for interaction at all levels. It is inspiring, provoking, with lots of edges and corners. The three experienced musicians skillfully transform a musical triangle into a well-rounded sound experience that is the quintessence of basically everything Jazz can do.

Many of the compositions, which are Reiner Witzel's own creations refer to scenes or moments from movies, and have been inspired by Reiner's many trips around the world. During the concert, photographs from these trips are being projected whenever possible to add a visual dimension. Moving, mesmerizing pictures as a leitmotif – also reflected in the title of the trio's first album "16mm". The three musicians play "unplugged" with the occasional use of electronics: This combination creates an atmospherically dense soundtrack made of dramatic tension and harmony, light and shadow, where images are produced by the mind....



## Reiner Witzel - sax

*“The world is so amazingly complex and colourful. As musicians, we can contribute to its beauty by using music as a powerful tool to open doors and make things move. Music is always both question and answer, search and destination.”*

*The highly versatile and popular saxophonist Reiner Witzel is everywhere at home: at festivals around the world, in jazz clubs in New York and Tokyo, with Fela Kuti in Nigeria or in the stadium in Dubai. Reiner has his own CD productions, including with his drum and bass project “Witzel's Venue“. He also composes for TV productions and works as a professional photographer (his work includes portraits of Lionel Richie and Roger Cicero).*

# Christian Scheuber - drums



*“Freedom is extremely important for me – and it is always present in the compositions that we play, as they offer many possibilities for interpretation. I do not just want to play what I am expected to play or already know – then I’d rather take the risk of playing wrong. I like the sound to vary between loud and low, a sound with energy and a statement – what I really hate is when it’s luke-warm! We are Rock ,n’ Rollers!”*

*The drummer Christian Scheuber undoubtedly belongs to the avant-garde of the German jazz scene with his exquisitely independent, energetic delivery full of unexpected turns and twists.*

# Joscha Oetz - bass



*“As a member of any band, you should always bring in your own identity and energy and an open ear. With “Drei im Roten Kreis“ this works perfectly for me, it is almost like dream-walking, as on the one hand, Reiner and Christian have been long-standing friends of mine and just play incredibly well, and on the other hand our music has a clear line and at the same time leaves all possibilities open.”*

*A virtuous, cosmopolitan bassist, producer and composer and a specialist for afro-Peruvian music – after 11 years in North and South America Joscha Oetz returned to his home town Cologne in 2011 and soon gained a reputation in the whole of Europe as a fine and highly popular musician of the art of the bass.*

# on tour:

- Mai 2011: Titelstory Sonic  
Juli 2011: Canarias Jazz Festival -  
Doppelkonzert mit Dave Holland Qunintett  
August 2011: San Jose Jazz Festival, Kalifornien  
September 2011: Jazz Festival in Odessa  
WDR Jazz.Cologne

## coming up:

- 21.03. als Opener der "Vandojam" auf der Musikmesse  
29.03. in Dijon (F)  
30.03. in Arbon (CH)  
10.05. in Ludwigshafen  
11.05. in Liege "Maison du Jazz" (B)  
06.06. bei den Hildener Jazztagen  
28.07. auf dem Jazzfestival Sofia (BG)  
25.08. bei "Jazz am Rhein" mit Gästen (Paul Bollenbeck & Jesse Milliner)

# CD: „16 mm“

artist: Drei im roten Kreis  
title: 16 mm  
label: JazzSick Records  
catalogue-no: 8003 JSS  
distribution: In Akustik / ESC Medien  
release date: 25. Juni 2010



## What the media wrote about the CD:

*...first-class Jazz with substance but most of all tune and depth. If I were asked to describe the timbre of "16 mm" in a single word, no doubt it's the word "atmosphere" that comes to mind – because this is exactly what the "Three in the Red Circle" create, clearly and unmistakably. If you allow yourself to get involved, you will find yourself in midst of an inspiring retro thriller full of suspense and no return. (Soultrain 07/10 )*

*A tribute to a timeless language beyond ephemeral trends: These are the virtues of this new trio of Reiner Witzel and his two trio partners. (Jazzthetik 09/10)*

*The trio swings effortlessly– at times the music has the elegance of a dance...In the title piece "16mm" inspired by an Antonioni movie, Witzel combines the bass clarinet with the doubled flute. Beware – you won't get the song out of your ear as it floats around like a small winged earworm. (Hamburger Tageblatt 29.7.10 )*

*... all this gives us reason to expect that the first CD of the new trio, which will be released in the series of the Jazz- Schmiede, will not only excel by its timelessness but most of all by a music full of suspense. Reiner Witzel slips into a variety of different roles, not only by playing the sax, the flute and the bass clarinet, but also by modulating the voluminous sound of the alto-saxophone in many different ways. (Rheinische Post)*

# More feedback from the press:

*However, the eleven original and three jazz standard tunes of the album do not make use of clichés of some random “imaginary sound track”. Instead, the three musicians work creatively in their arrangement without a harmony instrument... their music retains one important characteristic: It remains human. When listening to the music, you realize that the Three in the Red Circle have managed the brilliant task of breaking down an orchestral soundtrack to an ensemble arrangement and at the same time allow this soundtrack to be there all the way right underneath the surface. (Jazzthing 9/2010)*

*Just like in the cinema, it is all about contrasts, about light and shadows, dramatic action and harmony, with the only difference that all this is done through music. (Syker Zeitung)*

*... The evening of the festival began with the wonderful trio "Drei im roten Kreis" (Three in the Red Circle) from Germany that left other bands with its cinematographic phantasies such as "Zabriski Point and "Blues for Belfast" on the sidelines. (Odessa news)*

*The greatly casted (and dressed) trio sounded at times urban-rhythmic, expressive and groovy, at times atmospherically urging, a music that takes us to an acoustic road-movie. (Idsteiner Anzeiger)*

*Whereas images of a movie remain the same no matter how often you watch it, the only difference being the attention given to details of the scenes, the CD “16 mm“ creates new images of the mind each time you listen to it. (RP - Online 6/2010)*

*The trio swings effortlessly– at times the music has the elegance of a dance..In the title piece "16mm" inspired by an Antonioni movie, Witzel combines the bass clarinet with the doubled flute. Beware – you won't get the song out of your ear as it floats around like a small winged earworm. (Hamburger Tageblatt 29.7.10 )*

*An absolutely perfect moving around between Bossa and modern jazz, between club music atmosphere and a breathless pursuit on the movie screen. Highly emotional and perfectly staged by Witzel and his co-players. A jazz feast produced by “Jazzschmiede“ worth listening to. ( Diabolo \_ Mox)*

*In Mal Waldron's “Soul eyes“ for example, Witzel chisels every single sound of the theme like a sculptor, and from the falling fourth of the opening he gains momentum for the improvisation of loops that become increasingly wider, whereas in “Hafenhunde” (Harbour Dogs) he swaps smoothness for friction, bending sounds and roughening up sound spaces...*

*.....the CD 16 mm creates new images in each and every listener. This truly is great cinema...because they are strong, bold, unconventional characters who can play quite aggressively. These are important assets for a trio, which needs substance to be lively and to maintain suspense and excitement. (Jazzpodium 9/2010)*

# sonic

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**Reiner Witzel**  
Der Eine von  
„Drei im roten Kreis“



JÖRGEN BAGDREN  
OLOF ERIKSSON  
MOGENS MATHIAS LAURIDSEN  
A. STRATTON

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**Edición 2011 :: Artistas**

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**Three in the Red Circle**

San Jose Jazz Summer fest

**Drei im roten Kreis**  
Sunday, August 14, 2011 | Bella Mia Stage | 2pm  
Sunday, August 14, 2011 | 48 Hour Stage | 6pm



What's in a name? Drei im roten Kreis (Three in the Red Circle), loosely named after the film *Le Cercle Rouge* by Jean-Pierre Melville, is a conspiratorial community. The trio has created jazz with strong American roots, but with their own, powerful additions. The film that inspired the group's moniker represents a synthesis of French new-wave cinema and the American gangster film. This "new wave" in film (Nouvelle Vague) originated in at the end of the fifties and, for the most part, was created without artificial light and used hand-held cameras to create a realistic style. Exactly this three-piece band, full of turns and

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