

## Jazz Journal International

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### NORBERT STEIN PATA MUSIC PLAYED BY NDR BIG BAND

#### GRAFFITI SUITE

**CD 1:** *Franz Patang, Part 1; Part 2; Part 3; Part 4; U.B.U.; No.w.here; Music In 7 Hausen; Erster Haus; Zweites Haus; Drittes/Viertes Haus; Funftes Haus; Sechstes Haus; Siebtes Haus (52.45)*

**CD 2:** *Der Vogelschwarm; Der Berg; Fegefeuer Der Vokale; Der Vogelflug; Hot Spots; Tai Chi; And More; Global Positions; Maschinenmenschen; Zigzag Aethemitas (46.51)*

Thorsten Beckenstein, Ingolf Burkhardt, Philip Kacza, Claus Stotter, Michael Leuschner (t); Dan Gottshall, Sebastian Hoffman, Stefan Lotterman, Christophe Schweizer (tb); Ingo Lahne (btb, bb); Feite Felsch, Peter Bolte, Christophe Lauer (as, cl, f), Lutz Buchner, Gabriel Coburger (ts, cl, f), Marius Stein Hauser (as, cl, f); Frank Delle (bar, bcl, f). Hamburg, Germany, February 20-23, 2006

(Pata 18)

Pata music, no, I've never heard of it either, is described on the press release as 'a technique partially employed by Norbert Stein in his various hybrid productions,' and is 'applied to Graffiti Suite in its purest form: graphic pata-compositions for improvising orchestra.' The opening *Franz Patang* suite consists of 20 minutes of abstract honks, cries, screams and sounds from the brass and reeds before we get to *Part 4* when altoist Peter Bolte emerges from the ensemble to play an intense, feverish alto solo, strong on invention although unorthodox in structure and note production. *U.B.U* features lively, stinging solos from Leuschner on trumpet and an intricate offering from Dan Gottshall on trombone. Coburger's tenor sax solo is also fascinating spiralling, inventive. Hard toned in the extreme although all these solo efforts here and throughout the two CDs are framed by dissonant chords played by the ensemble. *Siebtes Haus* from CD 1 features some of the best ensemble playing and some solid drum and percussion playing. If these 'Pata Music' frameworks inspire fresh, original solo contributions from the various NDR soloists then they are doing a good job but the overall sounds of the orchestra, brash, volatile, often sudden dissonant eruptions of harsh sound, will not, I think, appeal to very many people.

The NDR Big Band is, undeniably, a very accomplished jazz orchestra with some sterling soloists although I feel that this double CD is one of their less accessible recordings. Looking for further enlightenment from the press release I read that 'pata physics,' is: 'defined as a science based on unreal logic and a new reality beyond the borders of the world of external appearances removed from the usual principals of causality.' Digest and make sense of that if you can and please, if you do, contact me and explain it to me.

Derek Ansell