

Hub Hildenbrand – The garden of stolen sounds

Hub Hildenbrand – solo guitar

Jazz, World

The garden of stolen sounds: „This is where all my paths meet. From my musical journeys to familiar places as well as more distant cultures, I have always taken something with me.“ In his music Hub Hildenbrand interweaves the most diverse sounds he gleaned on his travels through the music cultures of the world (India, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Ireland, Germany, USA). Virtuoso and with dreamlike ease he combines them to form a unique musical language. Hildenbrand's expressive and nuanced guitar playing reveals a colorful world of sound that both touches and impresses.

Hub Hildenbrand / Short Bio

Hub Hildenbrand (Germany)

guitar, composition

Studied at Rotterdams Conservatorium (NL) and with full scholarship at Berklee College of Music (Boston/USA). Student of Mick Goodrick, John Abercrombie, George Ruckert...

Intensive study of turkish music (maqam) at Conservatory of Turkish Music, Berlin. Student of oud-master Nuri Karademirli.

Intensive study of north indian Classical Music in Calcutta, India. Student of sarod-master Ranajit Sengupta.

Repeatedly featured by press (Downbeat, Jazz'n'more, Jazzzeit, Jazzpodium, Jazzthing...), radio (rbb, DR Kultur, All India Radio...) und TV (Arte, ZDF...).

Toured worldwide, appeared on festivals as Delhi International Arts Festival, Berlin-Istanbul Festival, folkBALTICA, Bardentreffen Nuremberg, Pafos 2017, Jazz in July... and has collaborated with internationally renowned musicians such as Palle Mikkelborg, Helen Davies, Hein Van de Geyn, Nuri Karademirli, Carlos Bica, Ranajit Sengupta...

Directed many ensembles (including Karapatakis/Hildenbrand/Spyridakis, trio Rosenrot, Hub Hildenbrand Trio, Trio Morgenland), composed music for film, television and theatre and released 11 CDs of his own music.

Supported by Goethe-Institut and Berlin government.

Hub Hildenbrand / Bio

Whole worlds unite in the sounds that Hub Hildenbrand brings out of his guitar.

JAZZTHING, 2018

Drawing from Jazz, European music, Middle Eastern and Indian heritages, Berlin-based guitarist and composer Hub Hildenbrand reveals places that have so far been closed to the guitar, creating an expressive language of his own.

Hildenbrand studied jazz and improvisation at Music Conservatory in Rotterdam (NL) in 1995–1998 and was later awarded a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music (Boston/USA) in 1998–1999, where he studied under the American jazz guitarist Mick Goodrick, who was an influential mentor of guitarists Pat Metheny and Bill Frisell.

The understanding of jazz tradition laid in him the strong foundation for developing his own voice. Jazz was historically formed through multicultural influences, and a key aspect is the expression of the individual. On this basis, he could naturally develop a distinct language, which he was able to make any music accessible.

Through a chance encounter, he discovered the Turkish music in cosmopolitan Berlin. Hildenbrand wanted to understand this music deeply and enrolled at the Conservatory of Turkish Music. There he was the student of oud-master Nuri Karademirli, who could transmit to him the modes and subtleties of Turkish classical music.

Nuri Karademirli states: *"I never met a German musician who was so serious about the microtonal system of Turkish Classical Music. I was impressed all the more when he (Hildenbrand) pitched the tones on the fretted guitar perfectly. I don't know any other musician, who, on one hand, has so intensively engaged with the microtonal system on the guitar and on the other hand brings the fine ears and the deep feeling for this music."*

Hildenbrand is inspired by the music of other cultures and of the world at large. Hildenbrand's mission is to bring the bewitching poetic colors of other string instrument's timbres (like oud, sarod, sitar, rabab and tar) to his instrument. The understanding that there is a common ground underlying all musical cultures, a musical language spanning the world is a central part of his philosophy.

Hildenbrand states: *"My instrument is the guitar, although at times I often hated it. I found that I could more easily relate to the sounds of the Turkish oud, Indian sarod, Afghan rabab and Persian tar. I could lose myself completely in their sounds. To find my language on the guitar, I needed to go on extended journeys, until the guitar finally began to reward me and became a wonderful means to express myself."*

Driven by curiosity, opening new doors, his travels took him further to Calcutta (India), where he was able to learn Classical Indian Music first hand. He was a student of sarod-master Ranajit Sengupta. India was one of his most influential experiences. He felt connected to the culture, and the cultures deep connection to the presence of spirituality opened up a mystical space for him and his relationship to music.

For Hildenbrand the deep mystery of music is in the nuances and colors and the realization of silence. It is his greatest reward when the listener is touched by his music, when it speaks directly to his soul.

Hildenbrand states: *"Music brings us to the present moment. Improvised music in particular. It makes each moment precious. Music is a language where I can express myself. When I play, I want to be touched and overwhelmed by the music. Music for me is an act of uncompromising self-expression. It is the language of the soul. For me being a musician is not a profession – it is a calling."*

Hub Hildenbrand / Press

Whole worlds unite in the sounds that Hub Hildenbrand brings out of his guitar.

JAZZTHING, Rolf Thomas, 2018

High-performance sport. Hildenbrand is a superb technician, that becomes clear already with the first, freely improvised piece. Pure technique can quickly become boring if the soul is missing. But Hildenbrand touches, even electrifies from the first to the last minute - full concentration. His music is solemn, introverted, meditative. You close your eyes and let yourself be carried away. The concert lasts two hours. Not a minute too long. One encore.

HESSISCH NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE ALLGEMEINE (HNA), Andreas Gebhardt, 2017

A gifted guitarist

NUERTINGER ZEITUNG, Juergen Gerrmann, 2017

The German guitarist Hub Hildenbrand is a musician with a broad spectrum. Solo, with only his Gibson archtop on his lap, the unpretentious music, never gets bored. The pronounced and intensive playing of Hildenbrand has a healing effect on the listener.

JAZZFLITS (NETHERLANDS), Hans Invernizzi, 2017

In Hildenbrand's hands, a normal guitar becomes the tool of a mystic.

DEUTSCHLANDFUNK, 2016

The music unfolded an almost hypnotic effect and drew the listeners into its spell.

MOZ, Andrea Weil, 2015

Powerfully emotional

SOUND-AND-IMAGE.de, Klaus Halama, 2015

We are dealing here with something very exceptional.

MUSIKANSICH.de, Wolfgang Giese, 2015

A world of sound that develops an almost hypnotic attraction.

DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR, Ralf Bei der Kellen, 2013

Gives you goosebumps

MAERKISCHE ODERZEITUNG, Matthias Wagner, 2013

An eminent guitarist

DER BLITZ, 2012

Guitarist Hub Hildenbrand is well-versed in both North Indian and Turkish classical music forms. He explores microtones with his guitar as he approximates the timbres and repertoire of both the Middle Eastern oud and Indian sarod. This CD is, as they say, a "class act."

FOXYDIGITALIS.COM, William Tilland, 2011

Impressive

JAZZPODIUM, Alexander Schmitz, 2011

An independent language. Very moving Music.
ALEXANDER SCHMITZ, 2011

A Path to the core of music.
JAZZPODIUM, Alexander Schmitz, 2010

A music that is unique in the world of jazz guitar. Hildenbrand has developed his very own way of playing. With exceptional technique, he creates extraordinary listening experiences. An absolute highlight of contemporary jazz guitar.
UNSER-LUEBECK.de, Thorsten Hingst, 2009

A journey of self-discovery. Music as a language. A fact that one almost intuitively notices. This music does not fall into any trap and avoids all stereotypes, because it simply is and wants to be nothing else. Unique.
JAZZTHETIK, Ralf Bei der Kellen, 2008

The most intensive musical experience for a long time.
INDIGO NOTES, Ralf Bei der Kellen, 2008

Music that lets you re-discover the enjoyment of listening.
JAZZEIT (AUSTRIA), Ralf Bei der Kellen, 2008

Absolutely great!
KULTURRADIO (RBB), Ulf Drechsel, 2008