

Christoph Irniger Pilgrim

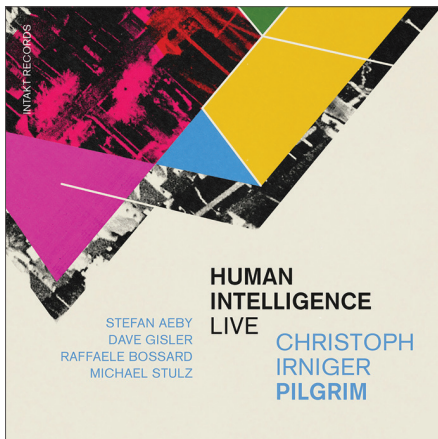
Human Intelligence Live

INTAKT



It's hardly news that jazz is a music best experienced live. Swiss tenor saxophonist Christoph Irniger clearly embraces this reality, recognizing what his long-running quintet Pilgrim can bring to the stage, where spontaneous decisions about shifting arrangements or even a set list can energize and inspire any given performance. *Human Intelligence Live* is the band's second live album among the six records they've released since 2011, and when you hear them navigate the opening of a piece like "Calling The Spirits," feeling out ambiguous terrain and trusting in a deep internal rapport, **the simultaneous excitement and sense of vulnerability produces a livewire vibe** that can't be replicated in the studio. About 8:40 into the piece, drummer Michael Stulz drops a snare bomb that elicits a sudden cry from one of the musicians, a pinpoint rupture of its cool vibe.

Balancing previously recorded gems with a passel of new tunes, Pilgrim hypercharges the contrapuntal sophistication that marks the leader's compositions and arrangements. The music occupies a modern mainstream sensibility built upon extended melodies and volatile introspection, where at any moment the



music can erupt only to rediscover its equanimity without a hiccup. Stulz and bassist Raffaele Bossard routinely shake up the poised lines of Irniger, guitarist Dave Gisler and pianist Stefan Aeby, injecting tension and conflict within lines that are otherwise marked by cool, controlled repose. **Irniger is a traditionalist with a contemporary flair, trusting in the interactivity of his crack ensemble to elevate the music into rarefied terrain.**

—Peter Margasak

Human Intelligence Live: Hendrix; Calling The Spirits; Secret Level; Human Intelligence (Interlude); Seven Down Eight Up; The Kraken; Human Intelligence; Emergency Exit; Back In The Game. (64:46)

Personnel: Christoph Irniger, tenor saxophone; Stefan Aeby, piano; Dave Gisler, guitar; Raffaele Bossard, bass; Michael Stulz, drums.

Ordering info: intaktrec.ch