

art2o's new Horizon

As in 2019 and 2020 Jasmin's creative power was in top form, which is reflected in many new substantial original compositions, art2o decided to record 6 of the numerous new songs in a studio production in collaboration with Anna Murphy.

The unplugged album **Back to Basics** is followed by **Horizon**, a pop album in which art2o reinvented itself once again during the work on this production. They created the style '**New Vintage Art Pop**', which is characterized by a modern retro touch. There were original vintage instruments such as the Rhodes or the Wurlitzer used. Also old Guitar equipment, which come from the times of the Beatles or the Beach Boys, shape the sound. The bass used was a Fender Precision built in 1963. This nostalgia is paired with modern arrangements and a lot of playfulness. In addition, instruments such as Xylophone or the Schwyzerörgeli (Swiss diatonic button accordion) add the rich sound. The drummer Tomi Ilg, with whom the band has already worked together several times, created the matching beat. With his professional skills and great intuition, he built an ideally fitting drum foundation for the rich songs. Above all, there is the intense, touching singing of Jasmin, which is underlaid with polyphonic backings. All in all, a playful, intense, versatile and emotional music experience.

Although the covid-19-induced live break was not the trigger for this production, it encouraged a concentrated work which surely influenced the quality of the songs.

art2o the electrified unplugged specialists

In more than 20 years of its existence, art2o has developed from a rock band to a pop rock combo into an unplugged specialist, which the band - among other things - distinguish as a live act today. About 16 years ago, art2o appeared with its first unplugged program. Over the years, this has been continuously expanded and renewed. Currently the band is developing, inspired by the production of the album Horizon, a little more towards electric sounds again. However, this does not make the music of art2o louder. Thanks to the latest live equipment, electric guitar and electric bass can be used very intensely sounding but yet discreet, which matches with the band's mindset of how to make music. That's why art2o is an electrified unplugged specialist today.

The Frauenfeld band "art2o" made a name for itself for the first time in the summer 2006, on the occasion of the release of her debut CD **Open Eyes**. With a very versatile pop-rock album proved the musicians independence, quality and depth. After several concerts followed the break: the formation fell apart due to internal differences.

After an intensive assessment of the current situation, the three remaining original members of the band (Jasmin, Lukas and Thomas) decided, to act as a trio in the future. The reduction became a Program. The existing song material was rearranged and adapted to the new Unplugged-Instrumenting. 'Reduced to the max' was then the motto and the 'new art2o' decided to record an album again. New songs were written, matching covers selected. In June 2013, **Back to Basics** was born. Jasmin's powerful voice matches the individually implemented songs. Sometimes intense like Kate Bush, then again rough like Alanis Morissette, she presents her own art2o songs as well as the cover versions, which are not simply replayed songs, but preserve the typical art2o cut and thus become new versions of well-known songs.

In 2015, Daniela joined the band as part of a realignment. The music-all-rounder is an ideal addition to art2o: «As a percussionist, pianist and background singer, she is an inspiration and brings new drive to our program». In the same year Back to Basics Vol. 2 was released. As the name suggests, this album is a reissue of the 2013 published work, now supplemented with percussion.

"We thought for a long time about how we could describe our music. Ideally, one could draw a comparison to a popular band: We sound like...". However, art2o didn't found a suitable comparison, perhaps also because their varied program has an enormous number of facets. In a nutshell, the music is probably described best with "Unplugged pop rock, reduced to the

essentials", whereby this phrase is far from grasping the sound of the band. It's about real, handmade music, which is added imaginatively - in addition to the classic rock-pop instruments guitar, bass and piano - with ukulele, flute, Schwyzerörgeli, Xylophone and percussion. Of course, the singing must not be forgotten, how the frontwoman Jasmin expresses the songs in a powerful, independent, but also nuanced and fascinating way, is one of the characteristics of the music of art2o.

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