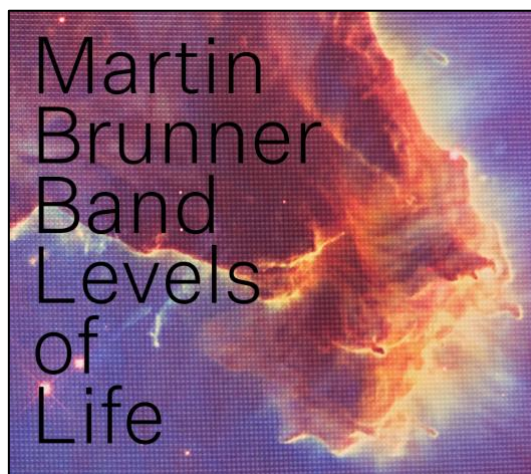


PIANIST MARTIN BRUNNER RELEASES A NEW ALBUM WITH A DISTINCT ROCK SOUND



Pianist and composer MARTIN BRUNNER (*1983) who has been a well-established presence on the Czech jazz scene, surprises in his new album, LEVELS OF LIFE, with a distinct rock sound. It has been six years since he brought out the purely acoustic album Morning Walks (Animal Music, 2013), featuring a classical jazz trio combined with a string quartet. In the meantime, Brunner has co-founded and become member of a collective of authors, The Prague Six, who write for the progressive big band Concept Art Orchestra (for their joint album, The Prague Six, they received an “Anděl” award in the jazz category in 2015). Brunner also writes for classical-music formations such as Duo Teres and Trio Clavio. Previously, he has tried his hand at a harsher sound in Jiří Šimek’s band Electric Madness with whom he plays on the Moog synthesizer, of which he makes ample use in his new album. His partners in this project are members

of the so-called Martin Brunner Band: TOMÁŠ FUCHS on the guitar (Jana Kirschner band, previously Ewa Farná band), RASTISLAV UHRÍK on the bass (Vertigo, Lanugo, Jana Kirschner Band) and ROMAN VÍCHA on the drums (Muff, Ewa Farná band). All four are sought-after musicians and cross easily across the boundaries between musical genres. As players equipped with jazz erudition and a wealth of experience, they return here to the music of their youth, yet with the necessary sense of detachment. Brunner who plays the piano in the recording, as well as the polyphonic analogue synthesizer Prophet 6, is the author of all the compositions. He talks about the album as providing him with a chance to revisit music that *“I used to love and listen to since I was a little boy, even though up until now I’ve mostly written acoustic music for the jazz trio and performers of classical music or the big band and have had little opportunity to explore it in depth. [...] In the end, however, I feel that this is the most natural way of musical expression for me.”* He composed the repertoire recorded here keeping his colleagues and their experience in the field of rock and pop in mind. The arrangements have been created in collaboration with the guitarist Tomáš Fuchs to whom Brunner has dedicated the opening composition, Space Rover (*“To me, Tomáš is simply a space roamer.”*) Brunner describes his compositional approach thus: *“Before, I used to write down every note and detail and presented the musicians with complete parts. Today, I write much more sparingly, mostly just the melodies or sketches of compositions with a few tabs, occasionally I will come up with a bass line or a riff. As a result, there is more space left for the musicians and their own creativity and I would say the performance itself sounds more fluent and natural.”*



The album LEVELS OF LIFE was recorded at the SONO RECORDS Studio, in collaboration with the sound engineer Milan Cimfe. The mastering is by the sound master Pavel Karlík, also of the SONO STUDIO. The author of the cover design is ALEŠ NAJBRT and it features a photograph by JIŘÍ THÝN. The album is distributed by SUPRAPHON both on CD and digitally and is also available from the e-shop on the website of ANIMAL MUSIC, both on CD and digitally.

The album will be launched at the Vila Štvanice on 23 October 2019 at 8 p.m. MARTIN BRUNNER BAND, have invited VIKOLLEJEN to appear as their guests at the launch.