

# Distinctive words from companions and friends

29. Mai 2015, Willisauer Bote

**Hämi Hämmerli, head of the Institute of Jazz and Folk Music, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Lucerne:**

«Peter Schärli has persistently gone his own way ever since the late 1970s, resisting the influence of short-lived trends. He is one of very few Swiss bandleaders who have kept their bands together over decades, enabling their shared musical language to develop over time. Unfortunately, this quality runs contrary to the constant desire for so-called 'novelties' that most Swiss jazz festivals and cultural sponsors cultivate.»

**Hans Koch, musician:**

«Peter Schärli is a great personality. The longevity of his bands stands out. Rather than copying others, he has developed his own style. Although his compositions are fairly melodious and jazzy, he is also very open and inclined to free improvisation. I was a member of his first band. That was the beginning of my own career, and I learned a lot with him.»

**Niklaus Troxler, founder of Jazz in Willisau:**

«Peter Schärli is a serious musician with a great sense of humour. He has always sought to explore new terrain while remaining true to himself: progress through continuity, as it were. Schärli quickly became a real asset for the Swiss jazz scene. He is keeping up the tradition of great Swiss trumpeters, adding his name to those of Umberto Arlati, Raymond Court, Jürg Grau, Hans Kennel, and Franco Ambrosetti. Schärli is not only an excellent trumpeter, but also an outstanding bandleader. In this respect, too: progress through continuity!»

**Sylwia Zytynska, drummer and percussionist:**

«Peter Schärli has a great presence and is a superb trumpeter. He listens attentively, and that cannot always be taken for granted among musicians. He's not vain. His most remarkable quality is that on stage he lives entirely in the moment. Peter Schärli has remained young; he asks himself a thousand questions, and that makes encounters with him free and open, especially on stage.»