

# ACT

## Michael Wollny

### Wunderkammer XXL

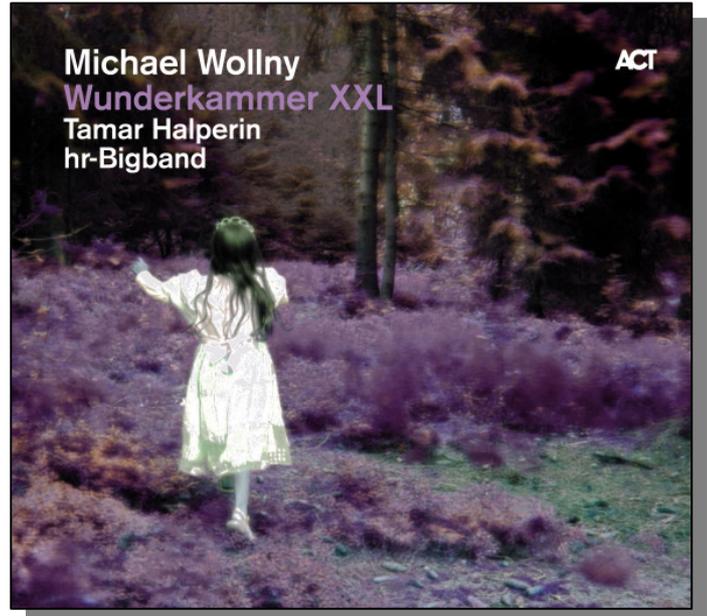
ACT 6011-2

German Release Date: August 30, 2013

Twice the listening pleasure for all Michael Wollny fans, in a limited edition and at a special two-for-one price: The Collector's Edition unites the original studio album of Wollny's magical sound adventure "Wunderkammer" with an XXL version recorded live with the hr big band at the Deutsches Jazzfestival in Frankfurt in October 2012.

"Germany's most exciting jazz pianist" exclaimed the newspaper *Die Welt* shortly after the release of "Michael Wollny's Wunderkammer" in the autumn of 2009. The *Frankfurter Rundschau* spoke of a "big step forwards in a totally new direction", indeed, that album marked the start of a new phase in Michael Wollny's career. The pianist, who repeatedly manages to surprise audiences with his music, was consequently raised to the summit of European jazz with the award of the coveted ECHO Jazz award as Best National Pianist. The *Hamburger Abendblatt* said that he is the "biggest (jazz) music personality that Germany has produced since Albert Mangelsdorff" and the *FAZ* sees in him a "consummate piano virtuoso," who "brings with him everything that can be asked of a perfect jazz pianist: masterly technique, exuberant imagination, discipline and the aptitude for creative chaos, sensitivity and aesthetic flair".

**Nobody plays piano like Michael Wollny.** His trademark: the unpredictable, the quest for what has never been heard before. His intention: to keep reinventing himself time and time again, both in terms of sound and composition. "Michael Wollny's Wunderkammer", recorded together with the harpsichordist Tamar Halperin, bears witness to this: piano, celesta, harpsichord, harmonium and Fender Rhodes go on a journey of discovery to new worlds of sound, somewhere between minimal music, electronic music and modal jazz. A wonderful sound-trip.



To this day, the Wunderkammer has never let Wollny loose. On 27 October 2012, the Deutsches Jazzfestival Frankfurt gave him the opportunity he had longed for to interpret it on a large scale together with the hr big band. Arranger Jörg-Achim Keller took over the orchestration for the big band, and the concert in the hr-Sendesaal broadcasting theatre was to be a triumphant event: "Wunderkammer XXL" sounded "impressively different in the subtly differentiated orchestra arrangement" and gave rise to "a fascinating interplay between keyboard magic and inspired ensemble playing" (*Frankfurter Rundschau*). The *FAZ* told of an "unbridled joy of making music and intelligent creative power" that the "ingenious sound inventor Michael Wollny" formed with the hr big band under the baton of Jim McNeely. The concert provoked storms of rapture from the audience, with 20-minute standing ovations that were unprecedented at Germany's oldest jazz festival, held for the first time in 1953.

**Michael Wollny wouldn't be Michael Wollny if he didn't have music on his mind again.** And so it is that the Collector's Edition closes a creative chapter while at the same time opening new doors. For example, Wollny and his piano are currently in the studio with the exceptional American bassist Tim Lefebvre, the proven [em]-drummer Eric Schaefer and saxophone shooting-star Marius Neset as guest. The new album will be released at the end of February 2014 and presented on the big Jazznights tour starting 21 March together with the Nils Landgren Quartet.

**"Wunderkammer XXL" with the hr big band will be performed two more times:** In November at the Enjoy Jazz and at the Jazzfest Berlin.

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Photo by Jörg Grosse Geldermann

#### Disc 1 - Wunderkammer Original Version

- 01 Stundenglas 4:52
- 02 Kabinett II 5:15
- 03 Chur 4:21
- 04 Kabinett III 3:44
- 05 Mesmer 3:56
- 06 Kabinett IV 4:16
- 07 Palimpsest 3:25
- 08 Kabinett VI 5:58
- 09 Sagée 6:03
- 10 Kabinett V 3:32
- 11 Amethyst 2:55
- 12 Kabinett I 3:15

Total time: 51:32

Michael Wollny / piano, celesta, harpsichord, harmonium, fender rhodes

Tamar Halperin / harpsichord, celesta

All music composed and arranged by Michael Wollny except tracks 03, 06 & 12 arranged with Guy Sternberg and track 09 arranged with Tamar Halperin

Produced by Guy Sternberg  
Executive Producer: Siggie Loch

Recorded in May 2009 by Guy Sternberg  
at FWL Studios, Leipzig  
Mixed in May/June 2009 by Guy Sternberg  
at LowSwing Studio, Berlin  
Mastered in July 2009 by Klaus Scheuermann

THE ACT COMPANY

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#### Disc 2 - Wunderkammer XXL - live

- 01 Kabinett II 6:58
- 02 Kabinett IV 7:55
- 03 Kabinett V 5:55
- 04 Monsters: Symmetriads 6:52
- 05 Kabinett VI 7:14
- 06 Sagée 7:57
- 07 Hexentanz I - III 9:06
- 08 Hexentanz IV - V 5:39

Total time: 57:42

Michael Wollny / piano, spieluhr, kalimba  
Tamar Halperin / harpsichord, celesta, harmonium, glockenspiel  
hr-Bigband (Frankfurt Radio Big Band) conducted by  
Jim McNeely

All music composed by Michael Wollny  
Orchestrations by Jörg Achim Keller

Produced by Michael Wollny & Hessischer Rundfunk  
Producer hr-Bigband: Olaf Stötzler

Recorded live at the German Jazz Festival Frankfurt,  
hr-Sendesaal, October 27, 2012  
Mastered by Klaus Scheuermann

Distributor:  
Allegro-Nail Distribution (US)  
A&N Music (GR)  
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