

# Duo Elin Sakas

## PROGRAM: WEST WIND

Tasks completed in pairs give twice the amount of pleasure – a sentence that has validity for many areas of life. There is intimacy and familiarity and what is more pleasing than to travel away together? For example to France, the mother country of the saxophone? In their new programme, „Westwind“ Christian Elin und Maruan Sakas map out the special connecting lines between the aesthetic sounding music of their French neighbours and their own compositions.

With their extraordinary combination of instruments the two musicians create a musical panorama for which you have to climb to a very high vantage point.

Whereas the first part offers works of Bach, Schumann and Poulenc, the original compositions of the second half contain elements of jazz, world music and film scores. But what seems so different at first glance actually belongs together: Firstly there is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who was one of the greatest improvisers. In addition, Robert Schumann, who influenced many French composers of the late 19th century including not least of all Francis Poulenc, whose harmonious sound language in turn refers to jazz. The original compositions by the duo contain a high level of written-out parts with complex structures, as known from classical music and which are dispersed again and again by improvisational flights of fancy.

Another bridge between the two halves of the concert are the French titles of the original pieces, which were often composed in France, such as „Le vent de L'ouest“ the title piece of the programme. Music for dreams, which like a gentle breeze, expresses Christian Elin's longing for his French second home. It's probably not promising too much if one said that the classics of tomorrow are being created right here. New music of the 21st century, of which no-one need be afraid. Music which takes the listener by the hand without relinquishing sophistication and free spirit.

In their music the two exceptional artists blend the clarity of classical form with the freedom of improvisation. Westwind – This is highly intelligent music, thrilling, virtuosic and entertaining all at the same time.

It was the magic of touching moods and soul-opening soundscapes.  
**Landsberger Allgemeine**

### PIECE SELECTION

First half of the programme, among others

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Johann Sebastian Bach</b> | Flute Sonata BWV 1031 |
| <b>Robert Schumann</b>       | Adagio und Allegro    |
| <b>Claude Debussy</b>        | Rapsodie              |
| <b>Francis Poulenc</b>       | Sonata for Oboe       |
| <b>Jean Françaix</b>         | Cinq danses exotiques |

Second half of the programme, among others

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Christian Elin</b> | Le vent de l'ouest<br>En route<br>Un pas jusqu'au seuil<br>Juste pour le plaisir<br>Rhythm Changes!<br>ECMS |
| <b>Maruan Sakas</b>   |   |

This really risky integration of very different styles and compositional techniques succeeded, primarily through the structural quality of the compositions, a first class and well attuned duo playing brilliantly in striking harmony, giving their own introductions and fascinating artistically.  
**Neue Musikzeitung**

Dream away, listening, perfecting wisdom.  
**WESTZEIT**