

Oscar Peterson Trio: The Berlin Concert (1985)

Review Rating: Standard

Label/Studio: Inakustic / MVD Visual

Catalog #: INAK-6460-DVD

Region: 0 (NTSC)

Released: March 13, 2007

Genre: Jazz Concert

Synopsis: An evening's performance with the Oscar Peterson Trio in Berlin, Germany.

Directed by: none credited

Screenplay by: n/a

Music by: Oscar Peterson Trio

Produced by: Guenter Korste

Cast: Oscar Peterson, Niels-Henning Oersted Petersen, Martin Drew

Film Length: 81 mins

Colour

Languages: Dolby Stereo 2.0, Dolby abd DTS 5.1

Subtitles:

Special Features :

(none)

Comments :

Oscar Peterson's actually one of the few jazz performers well-represented on DVD, and this new disc presents F bassist Niels-Henning Oersted Petersen and drummer Martin Drew at a June 2, 1985 performance at the Philha



Book Reviews
by Author
by Title

DVD Reviews
by Title

CD/LP Reviews

DVD Film Music

Isolated Scores
on DVD and
Laserdisc

Related Links



Exclusive
Interviews
& Profiles

Berlin, Germany.

The actual performance staging is pretty clever, as the trio are doused with high contrast lighting which hides the cameras a few feet away, yet allows the surrounding audience to get a good view of the men as they jam through. Close-miked to capture every drum hit, bass strumming, and melodious piano work, the DVD presents the concert original 2.0, stereo and new Dolby and DTS 5.1 mixes. The 5.1 tracks don't suffer from any remixed overkill, as careful modification of frequencies to isolate the warm, analogue bass to the front surrounds, and emphasize air and audience applause in the rear surrounds.

The original PAL video master's been smoothed for this NTSC conversion, softening some of the grain, and sort of the colour phase issues, though some are still present. There's a loss of red and green at the top, resulting in a band at the screen's top layer, and occasionally one catches minor artifacting during lap dissolves of tight shots fingering from the musicians. It doesn't detract from the performances, but the limitations of mid-eighties tube evident in this otherwise well-mastered and crisp-sounding DVD.

If you listen to rather than sit down and watch this DVD, you're missing out on some beautiful intimate moments of musicians, and footage of their incredible dexterity, as everyone gets fair time from the cameramen, and they follow the generous solos in every piece, including those by bassist Pedersen, and drummer Drew (the latter gets in the medley "Skylark-My Foolish Heart," and "Caravan").

Peterson's hands, whether shifting between Bop, Swing, or modernism, frequently move so fast, the tube came with a blur of motion, much like a hummingbird's active wings. There's nice exchanges between the musicians. Pedersen sometimes reveal their own fascination when Peterson begins a tune with a long, elegiac solo, as with "Turn To" – and the trio is so supportive of each other in every piece.

"Cakewalk" is a major highlight, as it demonstrates the tight dynamics between the trio. Bassist Pedersen dominates the piece with the melodic core, and Peterson picks up the second half on piano before letting Pedersen continue. It's slow, soothing, and very mellow, and eventually Peterson begins a marvelous improv, wherein his hands move magic across the keys, hitting complex chunks of notes & rhythms, yet still keeping pace with the shuffling tempo. Even as the pace gradually picks up and the volume jumps up a notch, Peterson doesn't force the tempo into something else.

The veteran pianist gets up and thanks the appreciative audience after almost every piece, shares the respect with his ace trio, and continues with marvelously rendered improvs through to the end, closing the night with "Caravan."

Produced by Germany's Inakustic and distributed in the U.S. by MVD Visual, this release is further proof of how jazz remains, even within the home theatre environment. A lot of European performances have appeared overseas (not counting old VHS and laserdiscs), so hopefully this is the beginning of a bigger wave, giving us more veteran artists at their creative peak.

Also released simultaneously is **Live in Vienna** (aka **Bass Encounters – Live in Concert**), featuring a 2005 performance with double bassists [Arni Egilsson](#), [Niels-Henning Oersted Petersen](#), and [Wayne Darling](#).

© 2007



[IMDB Entry](#) [Oscar Peterson Interview](#) [Oscar Peterson Site](#) [Canada Link](#)

n/a



n/a



[Amazon.com](#) [Amazon.ca](#) [Bay Street Video](#) [Comparisons](#)

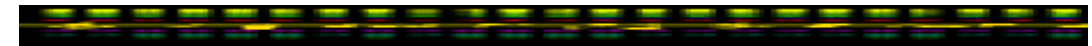


[Soundtrack CD](#) [CD Review](#) [LP Review](#) [Comp Filmog.](#)

n/a

n/a

n/a



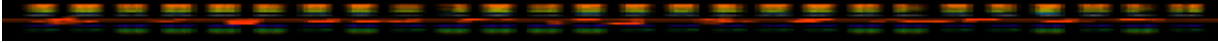
[Book Reviews: By Author](#) [By Title](#) [DVD Reviews: By Title](#)

[Music: CD & LP Reviews](#) [DVD Film Music](#) [Isolated Scores on DVD/Laserdisc](#)



[Related Links](#) [Exclusive Interviews & Profiles](#) [Site FAQ](#)

[Top of Page](#) [DVD Index "N to O "](#) [DVD Index "A"](#)



Site designed for 1024 x 768 resolution, using 16M colours, and optimized for MS Explorer 6.0. KQEK Logo and All Original KQEK Art, Interviews, Profiles, and Reviews Copyright © 2001-Present by Mark R. Hasan. All Rights Reserved. Additional Review Content by Contributors 2001-Present used by Permission of Authors. Additional Art Copyrighted by Respective Owners. Reproduction of any Original KQEK Content Requires Written Permission from Copyright Holder and/or Author. Links to non-KQEK sites have been included for your convenience; KQEK is not responsible for their content nor their possible use of any pop-ups, cookies, or information gathering.