

## BIO MATHIAS EICK

Norwegian trumpeter/multi-instrumentalist Mathias Eick is a thoughtful, ambient-leaning jazz musician. Born in 1979, Eick has performed with a variety of name players and is a member of the Trondheim Jazz Orchestra and the progressive jazz/electronic ensemble Jaga Jazzist. As a trumpeter, Eick is much in the tradition of such players as Kenny Wheeler, Chet Baker, Miles Davis, and Enrico Rava. Eick released his solo debut album 'The Door' on ECM in 2008. That same year he was also featured on guitarist Jacob Young's ECM release 'Sideways'. In 2011, Eick returned to his solo work with the more contemporary pop-oriented album 'Skala'. Third album on ECM - 'Midwest' - followed in 2015 and the latest release – 'Ravensburg' came out on ECM in 2018.

While his earlier editions and musicianship have been characterized by a life spent travelling, constantly heading towards new goals and destinations, the album Ravensburg witnesses a mature artist finding his unique and distinguished musical expression. The album is a voyage back home, a reflection on his life situation, with music as an important impetus and his family as a foundation. About Ravensburg he muses: "My inspiration has been my family, my beloved, my little children who never stop to amaze me, and all the emotional situations we experience on the stage where we mostly hang around, that is home".

To Eick his life consists of jigsaw puzzle pieces. Thousands of them. Like those he and his siblings were given each Christmas by their German grandmother from the jigsaw puzzle town, Ravensburg. Motifs of Alpine scenery and Tyrolean houses in a constant battle against the vacuum cleaner. Tracks titled "Family", "Children", "Friends" and "Parents" clearly demonstrate more profound metaphors and furthermore, that all these pieces play a decisive role in his life, artistically as well as privately.

His fourth album has also been the most challenging in his career so far. As composer and musician, it has been a struggle to conquer musical stagnation and periods of challenges. The result is an album where emotions stick to every breath. Ravensburg concerns the interplay of human beings, an interplay where all the pieces enact their part of the big jigsaw puzzle named life and where Mathias Eick in earnest proves on which shelf he has carved out for himself.

Mathias Eick comes from a folk music family and his improvising is informed by his knowledge of traditional music: there's a sense of history embodied in his sound. Having finished his education at NTNU Trondheim's jazz studies, he soon gained success working with artists like Trondheim Jazz Orchestra and Chick Corea, Jaga Jazzist, Iro Haarla, Many Katché, Elvira Nikolaisen and Jacob Young. As trumpeter, vibraphonist, double bass player, guitarist or piano player he has performed on far more than 100 recordings.