

## **Peter Zihlmann/Franz Hellmüller – Homeland**

Peter Zihlmann (p) and Franz Hellmüller (g) formed this rather unconventional duo in 2005. Their music, where two harmonical instruments meet, captivates with almost chamber music-like intimacy and esthetics.

The lack of bass and drums poses quite a challenge on the two musicians, but at the same time has a liberating effect and opens up many new possibilities, from which they know how to benefit in their own way. One moment the two instruments melt into one, then the guitar emerges solistically, then the piano, then again both or none. Thereby, light melodies alternate with introverted, melancholic passages as well as driving rhythms and intense collective improvisations. Due to their distinct musical knowledge, but most of all because of their ability to serve the other in their playing, Zihlmann and Hellmüller manage to cover with their sound the possibilities of a full band.

The compositions, all of them originals, are not easy to categorize. They are set in the border area of jazz, folk and european musical tradition. The centre of the music thereby is always the melody. It forms the supporting element and gives the music despite its harmonic and rhythmic complexity a certain simplicity and palpability. The song itself then builds the base for the improvisation that develops into a conversation between the two players with no certain direction and outcome.

On „homeland“, the new cd the listener is again taken on a musical journey. „Mit scharf“ („Hot and spicy“) plays with eastern tone material, on „Inis Mhor“ one believes to be off the coast of Irland, „Child’s play“ contains caribbean flair and with „Lointain“ the north american prairie seems to open up before the audience. Despite certain affinities to other musical styles the music always keeps its originality and shows a common musical language that Zihlmann and Hellmüller have found through long and intense playing – their „Homeland“

*[www.peterzihlmann.ch](http://www.peterzihlmann.ch)*