

Ekkehard Wölk Trio

Another Kind of Faith

Produced by Ekkehard Wölk and Rainer
Wiedensohler for Nabel
Executive Producer Andreas Stoffel
Recorded at STUDIO LOFT 54 (formerly:
LOFTSTUDIO), Berlin by Tobias Relenberg, Sept 30
and Oct 1, 2016
Mixed Dec 2016
Mastered by Nabel
Photos by Ekkehard Wölk, Andreas Stoffel (Studio)
and Falk Kulawik (live)
Cover design by Nabel

The Nabel logo consists of the word "NABEL" in a white, sans-serif font, set against a blue rectangular background. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving the logo a three-dimensional appearance as if it is floating above the surface.

500 years of Protestant Reformation: On 31 October 1517 **Martin Luther** (1483-1546), a rebellious monk from Thuringia in east Germany, nailed his famous 95 theses to the church door in the town of Wittenberg, in an act of protest against what he saw as the oppressive religious practices of his time.

This act of rebellion set in motion a fierce confessional battle between orthodox Catholic believers and the newly converted Protestants, who rejected the overwhelmingly repressive power of the pope and the ideology of the Roman Catholic church in general.

Himself the composer of a large number of church songs for his newly constituted community of belief, Martin Luther held music in very high esteem and saw it as having an important role to play in Protestant belief.

He thus established a completely new and long-lasting tradition of so-called Protestant chorals, to be sung in German at religious services for the first time ever. Over many centuries, these chorals have provided the musical basis of some of the most memorable cantatas and other musical works composed by the greatest German master composers. These include **Johann Walter** (1498-1570), **Heinrich Schütz** (1585-1672), **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750), and even later romantic musicians, such as Mendelssohn and Reger.

This historical and musical context, with its many broad cultural associations and subtextual significance (especially in Germany), was sufficient reason for our long-standing Berlin jazz/classical piano trio (Ekkehard Wölk, piano/arrangements; Jörn Henrich, bass; Andrea Marcelli, drums/clarinet) to mark this historic occasion by producing a complete cycle of fresh jazz arrangements based upon well-known chorals spanning the period 1523 to mid-18th century. For us, these arrangements, such as **Ein Feste Burg**, the quintessential protestant "battle song", or **Vom Himmel hoch**, the no less popular Christmas song, both composed with texts by Luther himself, somehow seem to reflect the musical heart of Protestantism. Alongside we also feature compositions by Johann Walter, cantor in Thorgau and Luther's closest musical associate, and also two beautiful early 17th century psalms from the pen of Heinrich Schütz, the great early Baroque composer.

The closing composition features the moving final theme from **Bach's** monumental St. Matthew Passion from 1727 (*Wir setzen uns mit Tränen nieder*), here in an elegiac arrangement for jazz flute and piano trio.

Another Kind of Faith: this set of classical Protestant church pieces, attentively transposed into contemporary jazz idioms, will provide 21st century listeners with an excitingly fresh insight into vital tradition of German religious songs arising in the time of Luther.

My sincere hope is that many listeners not so familiar with historic European music, who may well be more acquainted with jazz, will find in our passionate interpretations sufficient inspiration to explore for themselves the special musical world of Lutheriana In Jazz.

Time and again over the years I have found myself revisiting early choral works and other musical themes from the history of European (not only German!) music, which offer scope for new jazz arrangements and can be enriched by free improvisation.

I have been very much inspired by these themes and tunes in terms of melody and harmony, both in live performance and in the recording studio.

I see myself on a long-term and challenging quest to discover historical connections in European musical history by creating contemporary, chord-based free jazz improvisations and compositions.

The album **Another Kind of Faith**, especially conceived and recorded for the 2017 Reformation anniversary, is the thematic and musically appropriate continuation of our previous Nabel Records CD release **Songs, Chorals and Dances** (2005), and also the piano solo CD **Reflections on Mozart** (2007).

The many pieces I have myself composed, hitherto compiled under the title **Pictures in Sounds**, an equally valuable part of my previous work as a composer, are still awaiting official public release.





Ekkehard Wölk Trio
with special guest Kristoff Becker

live at Jesus-Christus-Kirche,
Berlin Dahlem, Feb 11, 2017

Photo: Falk Kulawik

1. Ein feste Burg (M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 6:55
Strong Tower and Refuge Is Our God
2. Aus tiefer Not Schrei ich zu dir (M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 4:07
Out of Deep I Cry to Thee
3. Wohl dem der in Gottes Furcht steht (M.Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 5:22
Happy the Man Who Feareth God
4. Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Ambrosius - Hymnus/M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 2:43
Now Come, Saviour of the Heathens
5. Mitten in dem Leben sind wir mit dem Todt umfängen (J. Walter; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 4:10
Though in Midst of Life We Be
6. Frau Musica singt (folksong adapted by M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music;) 4:51
Ms. Musica Sings
7. Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein (M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 2:42
Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice
8. Wohl denen die da wandeln in Gottes Herrlichkeit (H. Schütz; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 5:19
Blessed Are Those Who Walk
9. Christ lag in Todesbanden (M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 5:04
Christ Was Laid in Death's Strong Bands
10. Ich will so lang ich lebe preisen den Herren mein (H. Schütz; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 3:45
All My Life I Will Praise the Lord
11. Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich (Dona Nobis Pacem/M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 4:42
In These Our Days so Perilous
12. Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her (M. Luther; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 3:13
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
13. Wir setzen uns mit Tränen nieder (J. S. Bach; Arr.: E. Wölk/Nabel Music) 4:25
We Sit down with Tears

Ekkehard Wölk piano, arrangements
Jörn Henrich bass, lute (track 8)
Andrea Marcelli drums, clarinet (track 4,11)

Special guests:

Kristoff Becker cello, electronics (track 1,4,11)
Tobias Relenberg flute (track 6,13), tenor sax (track 9)

I would especially like to express my thanks to the long-standing music lover and jazz insider Andreas Stoffel for his personal commitment to the recording of this CD as executive producer. During our many club and festival appearances in recent years, especially in Berlin, his supporting presence has been of much valued help to our trio.

Ekkehard Wölk