

**SIGNUM saxophone quartet**

Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra

Hugh Wolff

P.Glass : Concerto for orchestra &amp; saxophone quartet

Sinfoniekonzert in der Tonhalle

Grandiose Harmonie im Quartett

Symphonic concert at Tonhalle

**Terrific harmony in the quartet**

Die vier Musiker von Signum Quartet in der Tonhalle. Foto: Susanne Diesner/Susanne Diesner/Tonhalle

**Düsseldorf. A real rarity for four saxophones and orchestra by Philip Glass at the Tonhalle's most recent "Sternzeichen" symphony concert. Hugh Wolff conducted the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra.**

By Anke Demirsoy

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(...) It was a repertoire rarity that triggered thunderous applause just before the concert break: The concerto for saxophone quartet and orchestra by Philip Glass.

Anyone who finds the repetitive structures of minimal music monotonous, perhaps assessing it as feel-good music with a meditative pull, has reckoned without the SIGNUM saxophone quartet. Blaz Kemperle, Hayrapet Arakelyan, Alan Luzar and Guerino Bellarosa merge on stage into a single organism that thinks in unison and almost breathes with the same lungs.

The fact that they play by heart inspires respect, especially performing a work that thrives on repetitions and many small shifts in rhythm. But the way these four musicians listen to each other and how they seek harmony and, at the same time, maintain contact with the conductor and orchestra is simply phenomenal. They are always caught up in the music, even during breaks, as if they were in a trance. They manage to square the circle with razor-sharp precision and an easy-going groove.

Even when the Glockenspiel brings a touch of candy sweetness into the performance, the artists reliably lift the music over any kitschy cliff. It's no wonder that festivals and concert halls worldwide are scrambling for this quartet. On top of that, the percussionists of the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra prove to be fabulous precision machines.

That is, with all due respect, mega cool.

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