

FUCHS THON ORCHESTRA

www.fuchsthone.com

A contemporary orchestra acting as a seismograph of the present: Together with their 22-piece Fuchsthone Orchestra, Christina Fuchs and Caroline Thon transform current events, personal encounters, and politics into powerful orchestral soundscapes. An innovative contemporary jazz big band, rich in textures, brilliant arrangements, and standout solo performances.

**Album Release FUCHSTHONE ORCHESTRA - PEAKS & PLOTS :
May 29, 2026 UNIT Records (UTR 5286)**

Virtuoso and urgent. That's how you could describe the music of the outstanding 22-piece "Fuchsthone Orchestra" led by Christina Fuchs and Caroline Thon – both experienced big band- and ensemble leaders who got together in 2019 to found a joint orchestra in Cologne, for which they write and conduct their respective compositions. After their acclaimed debut album "Structures & Beauty" 2023, now their follow-up album "Peaks & Plots" is being released, featuring Greek vibraphonist and percussionist Evi Filippou as guest soloist of the orchestra.

"Peaks" are the deeply experienced encounters and experiences of the year 2025, musically translated by the two composers into "Plots," their personal storylines and narratives. Like "Savita," composed by Caroline Thon and dedicated to the young German Ukraine aid worker Diana "Savita" Wagner, who described the horrors of the war in her touching frontline blog diary and lost her life during her aid mission. Or in "Taksim" by Christina Fuchs, with field recordings from Istanbul, the chants of the muezzin and street noises as the overall soundscape of the city. It was also created during a period of political unrest when she was staying there during an artist residency. "Taksim" is the name of the central square, but it also means, beyond the location, "musical improvisation".

Or in the intense composition "Le Champ" by Caroline Thon, based on the field theory of sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, as an appeal for a more equitable distribution of resources. According to Thon, some passages have the aggressive energy of rock music, combined with electronic minimal music, the element of words as sound, and the metallic-melodic soundscapes of Evi Filippou's vibraphone. When composing, she also follows Bela Bartók's theory of developing a complex musical work from a single compositional cell through continuous variation.

Christina Fuchs describes her compositional practice as a search for sound and expansion. Starting with rhythm, she develops compositional sketches that become fragments of sound collages. Layers that overlap and intertwine like events. "Every

chord has a verticality for me," she explains. Caroline Thon begins with a melodic idea that expands into an overall composition, incorporating layers of tension.

Always with the aim of taking an artistic stance on socio-political issues and continuously expanding and deepening her compositional spectrum in terms of sound. Fuchs and Thon work with dense rhythmic and melodic textures of knitted sound structures, electronics, and live sampling by computer musician and sound artist Eva Pöpplein, which they combine with big band brass sections, violin, and vocals to create a total work of art.

Expanding and transcending genre boundaries, virtuoso brass sections dive into emerging noise areas, from which solos and improvisational inner surfaces detach themselves, slowing down to a whisper, only to return to a large-scale soundscape. A dynamic of silence and the energy of explosive, brutal tutti. Masterfully lead by the two conductors, as a tonal narrative and exploration of form and material, of "Peaks & Plots".

FUCHSTHONE ORCHESTRA **Line up**

Christina Fuchs & Caroline Thon (direction, composition, conducting)
Feat. Evi Filippou (perc, vibraphon)

Roger Hanschel, Julian Drach, Veit Lange, Jens Böckamp, Kira Linn (saxes)
Simon Eckert, Matthias Knoop, John-Dennis Renken, Matthias Bergmann (trumpets)
Philipp Schitteck, Matthias Schuller, Moritz Wesp (trombones)
Wolf Schenk (basstrombone, tuba), Zuzana Leharová (violin)
Filippa Gojo (voice), Laia Genc (piano), Andreas Wahl (guitar), Alex Morsey (bass)
Jens Dümpe (drums), Eva Pöpplein (electronics, live samples)

Concerts 2026

CD Release Tour PEAKS & PLOTS

09.05.2026 Jazzfest Bonn, Telekom Forum
20.06.2026 Dortmund, Domicil
30.09.2026 Köln, Stadtgarten
01.10.2026 Aachen, Klangbrücke
03.10.2026 Karlsruhe, Tollhaus
14.10.2026 Wuppertal, LOCH
15.10.2026 Gütersloh, Theater