

# ROBERT GROMOTKA & JONAS HAIN

## BETWEEN US

### **Why do we leave our familiar surroundings?**

Why do we leave our comfort zone, open ourselves up, risk vulnerability - and what do we get out of it? `Between Us` is an album about what lies between people: trust and mistrust, intimacy and fear, conflict and the search for a common sound. Those who engage with this music will encounter not only the stories of two composers, but perhaps also themselves.

### **What will remain when the music has faded away?**

Perhaps it will be a feeling that continues to resonate for a long time - like after a conversation that raises more questions than it answers. `Between Us` is a musical mosaic of such conversations. The music asks: What lies between us? What separates us - and what connects us?

### **Two paths, one dialogue**

Jonas Hain, born in Munich and shaped by a longing for the immediate, moved early on between electronic beats and classical melancholy. His path led him from the turntables of clubs to the intimate sound world of the piano, where he created fragile, almost transparent music with his albums `Solopiano` and `Weißes Rauschen`, which is inspired by Chopin and Satie as well as the silence between the notes. For Hain, the piano is not a stage for virtuosity, but a space for doubt, hope - and the constant struggle with his own perfectionism.

Robert Gromotka, who lives in Berlin, comes from a different musical world: flute, bands, film music, working for large and small stages. His compositions are minimalist, melodic, with a clarity that echoes Debussy or Pärt. Gromotka understands the power of abstraction, the beauty of reduction. `Perfection is when there is nothing left to take away,` he quotes Robert de Saint-Exupéry - and lets his pieces breathe until only the essentials remain.

Two musicians, two life stories - and yet a common starting point: both know the loneliness of composing, the longing for resonance, the fear of failure. They meet first digitally, then in real life, somewhere between East and West, between studio and everyday life, between family responsibilities and artistic ambition. This encounter gives rise to music that is characterized not by competition but by trust.

### **Music as a mirror**

The music of `Between Us` has a clarity and gentleness reminiscent of Chopin, Satie, or Debussy, yet it is infused with a modern, cinematic sound aesthetic. The piano takes center stage - sometimes as a soloist, sometimes in dialogue with strings, sometimes enhanced by soft electronic textures. There are no loud

gestures, but rather quiet, urgent questions that run through the pieces. `Where We Begin`: the cautious approach of two voices. `The Lonely Fools`: shared melancholy. `Entropy`: the convergence of differences, the friction that also creates closeness.

The music opens up spaces in which everyone can find themselves: Who doesn't know the fear of opening up to something new? The desire for support? The joy of shared laughter that drives away seriousness for a moment? The pieces are like chapters in a novel in which the personal expands into the universal - and the universal suddenly becomes very close and personal.

### **What remains – and what touches us**

Perhaps the greatest promise of this album is that it not only tells the stories of its creators, but also holds up a mirror to its listeners. After the concert at Berlin's `Colosseum` last fall, many visitors said they had tears in their eyes - not because the music was sad, but because it touched something that has become rare: the experience of truly encountering another person through sound.

`Between Us` is not an album that provides answers. It asks questions – and invites you to find yourself in them. Listeners are reminded of their own experiences of doubt, new beginnings, or forgiveness. And those who attend a concert experience how music creates intimacy: between the stage and the audience, between the stories of the composers and those that each individual brings with them to the hall.

In the end, the hope remains that something of this openness, this vulnerability, will be taken home. Because perhaps what lies between us is not distance at all - but the space in which we truly encounter each other.