

Jazzing Up & Down

A German trio captivates both the expatriates and the Dhakaites in an electrifying concert of jazz

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JAZZ is a kind of music that teases the neuron, at least in a figurative way. The German trio Der Rote Berlisch has proved once again that jazz is not for the faint-hearted. The fragments of music that overlap and go to build every piece, as a whole, take one out on a jaunt with its unexpected ups and downs. The course, however rough, has its share of smooth, non-toothy moments. But jazz, as a rule, comes with a strong bite and the trio's experimental compositions seemed edgier than many purer versions that come from the other side of the Atlantic nowadays.

On the evening of January 20, at the Osmani Memorial Hall, the German musicians swayed the audience, so much so, that the applause at the end of each piece even made one of the organisers wonder out loud, "We didn't expect that the audience would be stimulated the way they were and we also didn't expect to have a full house." It was Goethe Institut sponsored Jazz evening.

Music crosses the boundary as easily as narcotic, but surely without ever causing the harm that results from the abuse of the later. Even for the listeners in the audience who were unschooled in modern repertoire, the Avant-garde jazz, as their music has been referred to in the flyer and during the show, the sound was enlivening. Anyone with an ear for Police's jazz-tinged post-punk upbeat forays must have found it easier to get into the vibe of the trio's repertory in that electrifying evening. With Rudi Mahall in clarinet, Oliver Steidle in percussion, Möbus's composition had the potential to leave a conspicuous mark in live performance. Möbus likes to look at his music as "jazz unbounded by tradition". "There are listeners

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