

German-Austrian jazz trumpeter and composer Gregor Lener introduces us to an exceptionally intimate experience of departure and retrospect with his album debut “Shore of Now”, released this summer together with his quartet Floating Time.

By means of catchy melodies and a remarkable blend of electronic and experimental elements originating from jazz and funk music, Lener takes us on an intimate journey to the here and now whilst showcasing a keen sense for simplicity and empathy.

“Shore of Now” transports us into a state of drifting, conveying a sense of departure and nevertheless granting us an occasional glimpse into the past. The quartet effortlessly recreates the present, cultivating an atmosphere of anticipation and disengagement, which is characterised by the musical freedom and moments of improvisation each member of the group lays claim to. Enough time remains for intersections and diversions without ever losing the sense of feeling welcome and harboured within this fellowship.

We are continuously picked up and taken along, just like a piece of broken glass in the breaking of waves. Gregor Lener navigates between the attempts of collectively treading a path, focussing on what lies behind appearances, communicating beyond words and staying in touch regardless of everyone’s own pathway.

The first track “Tribe” is an invitation to come on board the raft, the second track “Waying” a suggestion to follow the path as it presents itself. The pulsating “Telegraph” focusses on remaining connected, whereas “Retrospections” carries us to a place of reflection while transporting a notion of nostalgia. The fifth track “For All Who Knows” fuels the desire for communication without words based on pure intuition. “Luv Supreme” submerges us in love, the greatest of all emotions, and “Dance” constitutes the completion of the circle, right back to ourselves, to the motion of the individual body and the connection to our inner selves.

This final track featuring jazz singer Lisa Müller deserves some special attention as it seamlessly completes the album with lightness and body awareness.

The album takes up the quartets history. Again and again all band members were able to find common ground, regardless of their different paths of life and commitments, always taking a chance on a new beginning. Pianist Bernhard Ludescher is a long-time friend, whom Lener encountered in his first jazz band in Innsbruck. The connection to drummer Markus Daßau developed during the studies

in Osnabrück and finally, the collaboration with bassist Felix Barth kicked off while working with Natalia Mateo.