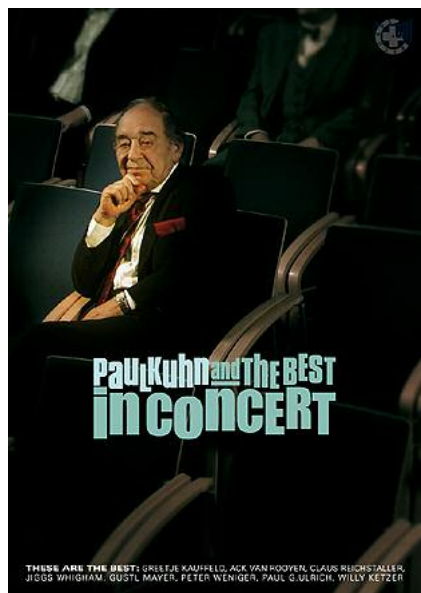




## PRESS RELEASE



### PAUL KUHN & THE BEST In Concert

IOR SACD 77056-6



IOR DVD 77056-9



**It Don't Mean A Thing** (2:40)  
**Introduction** (4:18) ONLY ON DVD  
**Florida Flirt** (7:59)  
**Angel Eyes** (5:41)  
**No Greater Love** (5:32)  
**It Had To Be You** (6:59) ONLY ON DVD  
**Oleo** (7:20) ONLY ON DVD  
**I Surrender** (5:42)  
**Robin's Nest** (6:45) ONLY ON DVD  
**My Funny Valentine** (5:55) ONLY ON DVD  
**The Best Is Yet To Come** (5:34) ONLY ON DVD  
**London By Night** (5:39)  
**Prelude To A Kiss** (5:15) ONLY ON DVD

**Once In A While** (5:05) ONLY ON DVD  
**Heading South** (4:03)  
**Just Friends** (5:43)  
**Well You Needn't** (5:46)  
**Der Hund** (1:42) ONLY ON DVD  
**Fly Me To The Moon** (4:50)  
**Young At Heart** (3:25)  
**Route 66** (7:38)  
Gesamtspielzeit CD: 74 Minuten

**BONUS MATERIAL DVD:**  
**PAUL KUHN: "Eine Deutsche Geschichte"**  
**Eine Dokumentation von Tim Gorbauch**

**PAUL KUHN** piano, vocals  
**GREETJE KAUFFELD** vocals  
**ACK VAN ROOYEN** trumpet  
**CLAUS REICHSTALER** trumpet  
**JIGGS WHIGHAM** trombone  
**GUSTL MAYER** saxophones  
**PETER WENIGER** saxophones  
**PAUL G. ULRICH** bass  
**WILLY KETZER** drums

### PAUL KUHN & THE BEST »In Concert«

(in & out records / in-akustik)

To celebrate his 75th birthday in March 2003, Paul Kuhn offered himself and his legions of fans a very special musical present: The album "Young At Heart", which was awarded the quarterly prize by the jury of the Deutsche Schallplattenkritik. For this project, Paul surrounded himself with some of his favourite musicians – hence the title of the ensemble, "Paul Kuhn and The Best". With his regular trio, a five-strong, all-star horn section and guest vocalist Greetje Kauffeld, Paul presented a delightfully varied programme of lively, swinging jazz numbers, romantic ballads, original compositions, evergreens by Rodgers and Hart and Isham Jones, a tasty Bossa Nova and the Thelonious Monk classic, "Well You Needn't". Now, some three years later, Paul Kuhn plans to follow up with a live version of this much-acclaimed album, which will be available in both CD and DVD formats. He chose a slightly modified version of the original line-up, one which occupies the middle ground between intimate chamber jazz and big band swing. In this live recording by the German TV channel, 3 Sat, all the musicians are in top form, inspired by the dynamism and youthful verve of their leader and compère on the piano.

During the two-hour-show, Paul Kuhn and his musicians deliver a captivating programme, full of sparkling wit, charm, swing, virtuosity and impeccable musicianship. Initially, Paul is supported by his regular trio companions, both complete masters of their art. Bassist Paul G. Ulrich from Krefeld has been a stalwart contributor to many Kuhn CDs with his warm tone, excellent time and precise intonation. It's no wonder that this cosmopolitan artist, part of whose musical education took place in New York, is considered to be one of the outstanding bassists on the current international scene.

Willy Ketzer has been Kuhn's regular drummer for a quarter of a century. Having started his career with Klaus Doldinger's Passport in the 1970s, he provided the unflagging rhythmic pulse for a number of major big bands and accompanied such legendary artists as Liza Minnelli and Tom Jones, among many others. The five-strong horn section was specially selected by Paul Kuhn. As on the studio CD, his long-time companion, Gustl Mayer is on board. This doughty tenor saxophonist, whose hero is the great Coleman Hawkins, not only

plays a major role on the European swing scene, but also presents a regular jazz programme on the German radio station, Hessischer Rundfunk – "Swing-Raritäten". Another long-time Kuhn associate is Holland's Ack van Rooyen, a fluent trumpet and flugelhorn player who is a founder member of the United Jazz & Rock Ensemble and has been a featured soloist with the orchestras of Bert Kaempfert and Peter Herbolzheimer. The fact that, in his special "Best" combo, Paul Kuhn unites these experienced artists with two "wild youngsters" and that the combination works extremely well, bears witness to his admirable instinct in the matter of musical interaction. Peter Weniger is a highly skilled and sublimely lyrical saxophone player in the Lester Young tradition. He has made his mark with a variety of German big bands and, at the present time, is a professor at the Berlin University of Arts. The youngster on this session is trumpeter Claus Reichstaller, an admirer of Woody Shaw. Claus was participating for the first time at the invitation of Paul Kuhn. Among the highlights of the career of this SWR Big Band member are performances at such venues as New York's Blue Note and collaborations with Benny Bailey, Al Porcino and Curtis Fuller. Jiggs Whigham's trombone completes the line-up of the horn section. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Whigham began his career with Glenn Miller and Stan Kenton. Later on, he became leader of RIAS Big Band and today he conducts the London-based BBC Big Band and is also a teacher and counsellor for the International Trombone Association.

A session by "The Best" would not be complete without a female guest singer. And who could fit more perfectly into this wonderful setting than Paul Kuhn's duet partner for decades, Greetje Kauffeld. Paul began recording popular songs with Greetje in the 1960s, but they are equally capable of interpreting jazz numbers – as they demonstrated very impressively on their 2005 album, "My Shining Hour".

Let us select a few highlights from this session to whet your appetite:

"Florida Flirt", full of energy, is one of those tunes which have the capacity to achieve classic status before the ink is dry on the manuscript paper. Paul has happy memories of his carefree sojourns in the sunny state and this piece offers the opportunity for him to showcase the five horns, who deliver high-energy performances. Ack van Rooyen contributes a smooth, dreamy flugelhorn interpretation of the Matt Dennis evergreen "Angel Eyes" and Jiggs Whigham's trombone caresses and adorns the melody of "It Had To Be You" with style and sensitivity. On "There's No Greater Love", Gustl Mayer and Peter Weniger prove themselves to be superbly compatible partners. Their dynamic and expressive saxophone dialogue is highly infectious! "If you ask me, what that is, I'll tell you," says Paul Kuhn.

"This is jazz as it is meant to be." Other highlights include Sonny Rollins's outstanding original "Oleo", on which Reichstaller reveals an incredible, flexible virtuosity on the muted trumpet. Then there is the catchy standard "Robbin's Nest" and the samba-tinged adaptation of Duke Ellington's "Prelude To A Kiss". Paul Kuhn displays his compositional talents once more with the piece "Heading South", cleverly weaving in allusions to Cuban music and Bossa Nova and contributing a sunny, soulful piano solo.

And then there are the vocal interludes. Greetje Kauffeld's moving adaptation of "My Funny Valentine" builds up a tremendous tension, and, on the second title track of the concert, "The Best Is Yet To Come", she teams up with Paul. Caroll Coates's "London By Night", is given a sensitive, emotive reading by Paul, who pays tribute to one of his early idols, Frank Sinatra. "Young At Heart" represents the philosophy of the entire concert, bringing Kuhn and Kauffeld together in an appealing duet, backed by the full line-up of "The Best". This track speaks eloquently of the magical affinity between these two artists.

To round off the show, there is a very special bonus: In Tim Gorbauch's documentary, "Paul Kuhn – Eine deutsche Geschichte", you can follow Paul Kuhn's career, which is set out in a very personal way. It is a very precious and entertaining 45-minute portrait, which presents the different chapters in the story of the "man on the piano". You'll get to know his first contacts with the jazz musicians of the then occupying power - the USA - and his early experiences as a professional musician in Berlin. Gorbauch offers a real insight into the artist's turbulent days as a singer of Schlager for EMI Electrola and his TV shows with the SFB Big Band. Sitting at his piano, Kuhn comments on the different stages of his career, explains how he acquired his current repertoire and reflects on his idols Hank Jones and Sinatra and on the great jazz compositions which are so dear to his heart. The camera accompanies him to a rendezvous with the swing legends, Hugo Strasser and Max Greger, and captures deeply moving moments in a record shop where he seeks some of his own rare treasures.

The concert and documentary film reveal a warm-hearted, thoroughly lovable man, an accomplished, though modest, piano player and a thoroughgoing entertainer without artifice - one of those dedicated artists and stage personalities which do not exactly abound on today's jazz scene.

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