

# kunst+st

## Benjamin Schmid „Hommage a Grappelli“

**Beni Schmid** | violin

**Diknu Schneeberger** | guitar

**Georg Breinschmid** | bass

A concert with Stephane **Grappelli** at the Jazzfestival Burghausen in 1980 left an unforgettable impression on the 12-year old Beni **Schmid**, who since his childhood - besides his classical education - was fascinated by the possibilities of improvisation and jazz. His classical career meanwhile became one of the most interesting in his generation with numerous CD- and competition-awards in three continents.

1985 at the „Concours Yehudi Menuhin“ in Paris, **Beni Schmid** won the first prize for „improvisation and jazz“ at age 17, **Stephane Grappelli** was on the jury and handed over the prize, together with **Lord Menuhin**. (He also won one of the classical categories and his Tchaikovsky-concert in the finals was called „the sensation of the competition“ by „Le Monde“).

In the following years, **Grappelli** invited Beni Schmid for common concerts in **Paris, Vienna** and finally in 1994, when they played together at the opening of the **Salzburg Festival**. 2003, five years after the death of Stephane Grappelli - and 50 years after the death of Django Reinhardt - Beni Schmid will play a „**Hommage to Grappelli**“ with

The trio plays **standards** of the legendary „Quintette du Hot Club de France“ in their own version as well as **new music**, created out of the special possibilities of this unamplified strings-sound. Stephane Grappelli was the **inventor** of the jazz-violin and with his elegant, poetic, French sound he really established the violin in jazz. To honour him adequately also demands new creative music.

The „**Beni Schmid Obsession**“-trio only uses **string instruments** - as Grappelli did.