

## STAGGERING BEAUTY

**Soprano Wiltrud Weber and Quartet San Francisco elated the audience in the sold out Festsaal Weissenau, Ravensburg in Germany**

**Wiltrud Weber**, born in Ravensburg, **delighted the audience** on this warm summer evening **with fresh energy. The cosmopolitan artist convinces with her versatile song repertory and her warm cordiality.**

Her collaborator Jeremy Cohen and his Quartet San Francisco conquered the audience with virtuosity and ingenuity.

The song "La Vita e Bella" by Nicola Piovani (born 1946) set up the prevailing mood of the evening:

Surrounded by the well tuned string quartet and in a dress, red like fire, Wiltrud Weber sang "Love...Smile!" .

Andres Vera had his cello cloaked around his neck and was moving his hips to the music.

In "Zyczenie" by Chopin (1810-1849) Wiltrud Weber, classically trained in piano and singing, offered **colloraturas , clear and pure like bells**. In "Yiddishe Mame" she **impressed with an unbelievable broad spectrum of female emotions and earned thunderous applause.**

**Her voice lit up passionately** for the interpretation of the Gypsy Song "Kdyz mne stara matka" by Dvorak (1841-1904).

In her favorite song "Youkali", composed 1930 by Kurt Weill during his exile in France, Wiltrud Weber brought the audience very close to the place of desire and longing.

**With adorable dedication she was floating between dream and reality.** The soprano was constantly accompanied and supported by the Quartet San Francisco.

**With unbelievable flexibility Wiltrud Weber was switching between the different languages....**between the sensation of time-transcending inwardness in " Solveigs Sang" by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), juvenile regret of transcendence in the hit song "Roter Mohn" by Michael Jary (1906-1988), the zest of life in a Jiddish traditional and the "Bei mir bistu shein" by Sholom Secunda (1894-1974) and the song "Oh you, whom I often and silently come" especially composed for Wiltrud Weber by Jon Dryden (born 1968).

The Quartet San Francisco played the two Latin-American Instrumentals "Tango Toscana" and "Guamba" composed by Jeremy Cohen (born 1957) fervidly and with playful irony through the witty buzzing and creaking which was welcomed by the audience with cheerful laughter. In a sharp tempo the Quartet was racing through "Rhapsody in Bluegrass" (George Gershwin, 1898 - 1937).

Bowing to the hospitality and the beautiful location Jeremy Cohen explained to the audience how the European tradition of Chamber music perfectly aligns with the modern understanding of American Jazz musicians...Like in "Spain", maybe the most known composition of Jazz Pianist Chick Corea (born 1941). After this rendition the listeners ranted with delight In the with stucco decorated concert hall.

A highlight of Wiltrud Webers vocal artistry was the Vocalise from " Once upon a time in the West" by the Italian filmmusic composer **Ennio Morricone**. In this entrancing tearjerker, carried by fluent vowels, used like an instrument, **her voice was staggeringly free.**