EUROPEAN-NEWS-AGENCY.COM

EUROPEAN NEWS AGENCY

International Press Service

Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Hammond Inferno at Vienna Blues Spring

Vienna Blues Spring, 30.03.2026 [ENA]

Raphael Wressnig's Soul Gift band delivered a career-defining performance at Reigen-Live during Vienna Blues Spring 2026, unleashing the Hammond B-3's full volcanic potential in a 3-hour soul-blues-funk exorcism. Wressnig—arguably Europe's finest living organist—commands the B-3 like a possessed revival preacher, his percussive left-hand basslines locking with the drummer's kick.

This wasn't mere organ trio blues; it was high-voltage soul revivalism where the Hammond replaced the lead singer entirely, roaring leads over rhythm section bedrock.

The band's chemistry crackled from the opening Voodoo Boogie—Wressnig's signature New Orleans-style funk stomp where the Leslie speaker screamed like a Delta juke joint on fire. Guitarist Alex Schultz (ex-John Nemeth, ex-Robert Cray) brought California shuffle authenticity, his Stratocaster slicing clean through Wressnig's organ walls without ever competing for space. Schultz's Albert Collins-style single-note runs danced atop the organ's churning swells, while his fat, Jimmy Nolen-inspired rhythm chops locked perfectly with the bass player's pocket.

Wressnig's command of B-3 vocabulary dazzled: Jimmy Smith-style block chords erupted into Jack McDuff pentatonic pyrotechnics, then evaporated into shimmering Larry Young-esque modal mist. His percussive basslines—straight out of Booker T.'s Stax playbook—propelled the band through vintage soul covers ("Respect", "Mustang Sally") and originals that could've been cut at Royal Studios circa 1968. The real revelation was his drawbar mastery: subtle registration shifts transformed cocktail-lounge vibes into arena-shaking gospel roars mid-solo.

Guest vocalist Gisele Jackson elevated the set from excellent to transcendent. Her Aretha-channeling alto shredded "Chain of Fools" and "I'll Take You There", but she truly slayed on Wressnig's "Soul Gift"—a slow-burning burner where her sanctified screams rode waves of swirling organ. Jackson's phrasing recalled Fontella Bass at her peak, every syllable dripping Stax soul while Wressnig's fills answered like a Hammond-choir call-and-response.

The drummer deserves special mention: crisp hi-hat grooves underpinned every shuffle without ever overpowering the organ-guitar conversation. His Clydie King-style fills propelled transitions while leaving space for Wressnig's solos to breathe—a masterclass in blues trio pocket.

Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.



What sets Wressnig apart from lesser Hammond heroes is his contemporary edge: vintage Jimmy Smith tone meets Robert Glasper harmonic sophistication. He'll quote "The Sermon" then pivot to D'Angelo-style neo-soul vamps, proving the B-3 remains a living instrument.

His left-hand bass technique—rare among organists—eliminates the need for a dedicated bassist, creating that classic organ trio "one-chord" trance state where rhythm section and soloist become indistinguishable.

Vienna Blues Spring couldn't have chosen a better headliner. Wressnig & Soul Gift didn't play blues—they summoned its primal spirits through Hammond alchemy. In an era of digital imitation, their analog soul fire burned brighter than ever, proving the B-3 remains blues' ultimate weapon. Three hours later, Reigen's walls still vibrated. Pure Hammond gospel.

Bericht online lesen:
https://culture.en-a.eu/kunst_kultur_und_musik/hammond_inferno_at_vienna_blues_spring-93340/

Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:
V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.