

# Lyft Trio

## Band Text:

Hiking for a full kilometer with outstretched arms – a clear goal in sight and a feeling of gravity-defying liberty help globetrotter Mario Castelberg develop bizarre ideas, including the name of his band: Lyft Trio. This was founded while guitarist Castelberg and his fellow band members Joel Banz (bass) and Janic Haller (drums) were waiting to be freed out of a stuck lift. Their music is inspired by the unlimited freedom of jazz, the atmosphere of the Americana and the song-conducive catchiness of pop music. Always in balance between dissonance and consonance, clear melodies and spherical noises, simplicity and complexity. Due to this versatility the Lyft Trio picks up its audience like a lift – if it doesn't accidentally get stuck – and elevates it into weightless and dreamlike but also lucid spheres.



## Musikerbiografien



Mario Castelberg (\*1995, Switzerland) is a composer and jazzguitarist. He's studied jazz performance at the Hochschule Luzern under Kalle Kalima and Frank Möbus. Besides Lyft Trio he plays at Hobo Ho (Hans-Peter Pfammattter and Pascal Widmer), Les Chouettes and many other jazz or "impro" based projects.



Joel Banz (\*1996, Switzerland) is a bass player and techno producer. He's studied jazzbass at Hochschule Luzern. He is the head of Nährwerk and performs as a sideman at LyftTrio "ab3ad are" and more.



Janic Haller (\*1994, Switzerland) is the Drummer. Haller's studied Jazzdrums at Hochschule Luzern under Norbert Pfammatter and Herry Hemingway. Plays as a sideman at Kwadrat, Mareille Merck Larus, Nährwerk and many more.

## All Albums

### Weit 2021



Vast expanses, endless horizons, a view so overwhelming it leaves one breathless. Is it freedom, happiness, blissful tranquillity? Or emptiness and solitary isolation? These are just some of the thoughts on which Mario Castelberg, guitarist and composer, contemplated upon whilst hiking through the highlands of Norway. The inspiration for his compositions comes from the many adventures he has experienced over the years. The towering mountains as he journeyed across the Alps in Northern Italy, the dense jungle at the foot of Mount Kinabalu, or simply the atmosphere on top of a bar terrace in his adopted hometown Lucerne, Switzerland. Together with Joel Banz (b) and Janic Haller (dr), Castelberg sets his narrative to music under the name „Lyft Trio

Following their 2018 album “Traveller”, “Weit” (translated as „Far”) comes as a collection of Castelberg’s experiences, notably those over the past two years. Comparable to a diary, he reflects upon the inner and outer processes of his life, devising them into his own personal take on modern Jazz.

Janic Haller percussively translates Castelberg’s compositions and melodic guitar with diverse dynamics, grooves and complexity, all of which are supported by Joel Banz’s sensitive and contrapuntal bass. Contrary to their first release, Lyft Trio teamed up with saxophonist John Voirol to bring their second album “Weit” to life. Voirol’s expressive, experienced and radical style provided musical reinforcement, whilst adding a spontaneity and freshness which stands in opposition to the band’s traditional lyrical approach. The album sustains a balance between dissonance and consonance, clear melodies and spherical noises, simplicity and complexity. In it, you will find the freedom of Jazz, the atmosphere of the Americana and the song-conducive catchiness of pop.

## Traveller 2018



Mario Castelberg is a globetrotter. Once a year, the guitarist selects a destination, which he proceeds to explore single-handedly. The debut album *Traveller* is the musical manifestation of inspiration collected on these journeys. Together with Joel Banz (bass) and Janic Haller (drums), Castelberg melodizes his experiences under the name *Lyft Trio*. For example, hiking for a full kilometer with outstretched arms to escape the madness of solitude, or meeting people from all walks of life in countries as diverse as Iceland and Malaysia - as a person born and bred in Appenzell. These impressions are reflected in many of the song titles and brought to life by the music of the Lyft Trio. The musical influences lead to enthralling compositions: the opener, *Glow*, functions according to the aesthetics of Nordic Jazz while simultaneously presenting a distinctly unique style of composition with its magnificent fretless bass melody. *Spring Poem*, on the other hand, captures the listener with dynamic eruptions and dramaturgical finesse: The initial spherical chiming of bells is soon replaced by eruptions reminiscent of geysers only to end in conciliatory soft rain. Or take *It's Still There*: A spherical groove, which opens up towards the second half of the song and tells its very own tale in the vein of faster Radiohead songs. Next to these influences, names like Gilad Hekselman, Brad Mehldau or Julian Lage come to mind while listening to songs which combine the unlimited freedom of jazz, the atmosphere of the Americana and the song-conducive catchiness of pop music. It is this versatility that invites listeners of *Traveller* to travel along on this pleasant musical journey devoid of complicated control mechanisms and to feel the smooth levitation of a lift.