



APRIL 26, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Stephanie Jo Klein  
212-274-8640  
stephanie@obliqsound.com

## **VIOLINIST TOBIAS PREISIG RELEASES “FLOWING MOOD” ON OBLIQSOUND**

The stage is bathed in colour, the audience cheers and a spotlight frames a young violinist entering with innocent confidence. It's the Quincy Jones' birthday tribute concert at the 2008 Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, and Tobias Preisig joins vocalists Ledisi and Rahsaan Patterson to perform a solo on Marvin Gaye's classic "What's Going On". The audience wonders who this young musician must be, and what makes him so special to be invited to play such a prestigious event. The Montreux audience immediately heard his solo, but luckily for other music lovers today, Tobias Preisig's new album "Flowing Mood," releasing May 18 on ObliqSound, puts an answer to the question and introduces him properly to the public.

With "Flowing Mood," violinist Preisig presents a band whose sound recalls the passionate, cross-bred concoctions of Astor Piazzolla and the bliss of tunes from Keith Jarrett's European Quartet. "Tobias's music could not be simply played by a trumpet or a soprano saxophone", states the album's producer and co-founder of ObliqSound Michele Locatelli. "This is music written on the violin, with the instrument in mind. It's far from being simply a jazz quartet in which the horn instrument has been replaced. At the same time, the music is not a showcase of instrumental virtuosity; it's inspired and thoroughly composed."

Preisig is far from being unknown in his home country of Switzerland, and is part of a movement coming about on the European jazz scene -- a new generation of young musicians coming from Zurich who have been developing a new sound in jazz, including pianist Colin Vallon and ECM recording artist Nik Bärtsch. Tobi Preisig and his outstanding band complete the group of rising stars from Zurich, with "Flowing Mood" highlighting the talents of pianist and Sony Music recording artist Stefan Rusconi, bassist Andre' Pousatz, and drummer Michi Stultz. Preisig explains: "The band and I grew up together musically in this environment. We were all listening to great indie pop, alternative rock and experimental electronica and trying to de-intellectualize jazz. Jazz is treated by many as a historical form of art - we want to help it regain its place as a contemporary young form of music."

Preisig's music disproves the still prevailing prejudice that a violin is far from a Jazz-oriented instrument - in his hands the violin becomes an expressive and wonderful instrument of music that crosses the boundaries between genres and traditions. The captivating tunes contained in "Flowing Mood" come out from the core of Preisig's daily life and have been inspired by the impressions he gathered growing up in Zurich. His tunes are full of atmosphere, varied and unpretentious, charming and soulful.

"The title of the opening track, Hardbruecke, comes from a bridge in Zurich," explains Preisig. "It's a huge bridge in the center of the city, overlooking the central train station and the river Limmat. If you drive from the north of Europe straight south towards Italy, you have to cross it. Below it, there are train tracks going in several directions out in Europe. I was impressed by the sight from the bridge of the huge transport network starting off from this relatively small city in the middle of the Alps."

New York: ObliqSound, Inc. 373 Broadway Suite F11, New York, New York 10013 T +1.212.274.8640 F +1.212.274.8641  
Hamburg: ObliqSound GmbH Struenseestrasse 37, D-22767 Hamburg, Germany T +49.40.32.50.79.51 F +49.40.32.50.79.52  
ObliqSound and the ObliqSound logo are trademarks of ObliqSound GmbH registered worldwide

The title of the tune “Casablanca” does not refer to the Moroccan city, but to a trendy Zurich café. “It’s just next to my studio, situated in the liveliest area of the city where there’s a great variety of cultures and ethnicities,” Preisig adds. “In this song, you can hear the mix of musical styles and the liveliness of the area.”

“Longing to Reflect” is a piece that is deeply emblematic of Preisig’s compositional maturity and vision, and shows him at his best. The beginning is intimate and soothing, allowing the listener to escape into the sound, texture and theme Preisig has created. “In our busy days, it is so hard to find time for reflection,” notes Preisig. This music takes us away from the daily grind, transporting us to a place where we can be with our own intimate thoughts.

This seemingly effortless ability to relax and reflect only comes after years of careful study. Preisig, now 28, was born in Zurich, and was admitted as the first violin student at the Swiss Jazz School in Berne, where he was taught by Andy Scherrer and Peter Frei. He began to compete in festivals, and in 1998, garnered soloist awards at Jazzworkshop Interlaken and began to play with the Swiss Youth Orchestra, and was sent the next year to Paris as a representative of the Swiss Jazz School at the International Association of Schools of Jazz. Shortly after the beginning of such acclaim, Preisig moved to New York where he began his studies at New School University’s jazz program where he later received a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Art) degree .

After promotion by notables such as Richie Beirach, Reggie Workmann and Gerald Beal, he was invited by Rufus Reid to join the Masterclass at the Ravinia Jazzfestival Chicago. In summer 2003, he toured Europe with the European Youth Jazz Orchestra, including performing at the Siena Jazz Festival. After concerts tours in Paris with Vincent Peirani and Marc Barron, Preisig returned to Switzerland in 2004, where he started his own quartet and recorded his first album, “Chapter One”. Between 2004 and 2007, Preisig found time for a master’s degree at Zurich’s Academy for Music and Theatre, in between tours of Switzerland with his own band, and others like Sax ‘n Sounds, Herbie Kopf’s “Close Contact”, Thomas Demenga, Daniel Schnyder, Christian Zehnder and Nik Bärtsch, Araxi Karnusian’s Strange Sound-Beautiful Music, and several duo and trio collaborations with George Gruntz and Luciano Biondini. In addition to the honor of performing at the Montreux Jazz Festival for the Quincy Jones Tribute, Preisig has also received several awards, including recently being selected for sponsorship by the Pro-Helvetia Swiss Arts Council, marking him as an outstanding artistic representative of the nation of Switzerland.

The past year has seen Preisig continue to flourish artistically, as he spent the fall of 2009 as the artist in residence at Zurich’s jazz club Moods, and in early 2010, his talents were featured on TCB Records’ new release “*Little Horse-Ho!*”, in duo with pianist George Gruntz, and special guest Dave Liebman on saxophone.

With “Flowing Mood,” Preisig has formed a flexible body of sound, switching between soothing silence and explosive bursts. Preisig and his violin take us on a journey of dramatic landscapes and cozy ambiances, making us sigh, sing and celebrate.

**For more info: <http://www.obliqsound.com> and [www.tobiaspreisig.com](http://www.tobiaspreisig.com)**