## Kitchen Cowboys – Heart Beat from Hamburg

"Do you think it's love?" You can never be quite sure of that on the new album produced by Hamburg band Kitchen Cowboys. The German-language lyrics written by Marianne Wellershoff can be chockful of irony or brimming with melancholy but they are always expressive and poetic – and they are unfailingly wrapped in melodious, surprising pop tunes composed by lead singer Philip Bethge. The eleven songs on their new album "Glaubst du, dass es Liebe ist?" (indigoteam/NovaTune-OrcaRecords) feature a fresh, transparent, sassy and modern sound, from the powerful "Schlaflos" ("Sleepless") to the sarcastic "Ich freu mich" ("I'm happy") and the strangely sensitive "Hab's versucht" ("I've tried"). The band, established in a backyard kitchen in 1999, combines contemporary, innovative German pop with jazzy solos played masterfully by Ruediger Hirt on saxophone, Klaus Markus on trumpet and Sandra Wierer on violin. With his versatile, strangely hot-and-cold vocals, Philip Bethge adds the typical Kitchen Cowboys touch to the songs. Sophisticated horns and strings arrangements round off the sound of the band.

Since their inception the Kitchen Cowboys, founded by members of the Hamburg media and internet scene, have built their fan base mostly in the Hamburg area through their concerts in local venues. In 2004, a broadcast special on US campus radio station KUSF Radio Goethe was dedicated to the then-English-language

band. The Kitchen Cowboys have released three previous albums: "So Beautiful" (2000), "Want to be Rich" (2003), and "Live in Berlin" (2004).

Meet the Kitchen

Cowboys: Thomas Adler (guitar, harmonica), Philip

Bethge (vocals, accordeon, piano), Ruediger Hirt (saxophone), Klaus Markus (trumpet), Tom Ungemach (drums), Marianne Wellershoff (bass), Sandra Wierer (violin. vocals).

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