

Sławek Plizga Quartet

Sławek Plizga – guitar Victoria Mozalevskaya – saxophone
Chritsoph Utzinger – double bass Josua Beureux - drums

A band made of four excellent musicians who met during their Studies at the Bernese University of Arts (jazz department). They all share common love and passion for Jazz that is so important for creating nicely swinging Music.

The instrumentation of this ensemble isn't accidentally. Having a guitar as the only harmonic instrument makes the connection between saxophone, guitar and bass shift from soloist – accompanist relation to polyphonic structured playing. Tenor saxophone together with guitar is also a very important sonoristic factor. Both of these instruments occupy often the same register, what gives unison played melodies special color.

The band's repertoire is made of Sławek's original compositions and carefully chosen jazz standards surrounded by original arrangements that make every tune interesting and at the same time allow each member of the quartet to stay creative.

All this plus a lot of improvisation makes every concert of the quartet unique and unforgettable.



Sławek Plizga

started playing classical guitar at age 9 in Poland. Over the years he developed a great interest in jazz and blues finally deciding to study at Jazz School in Warsaw with Piotr Lemański.

After two years Sławek moved to Bern for the University of Arts Bern (jazz department) where he has studied with many great teachers and musicians (Bert Joris, Thomas Dürst, Francis Coletta, Tomas Sauter, Ronny Graupe).

In summer 2012 Sławek won third place in International Jazz Guitar Competition at Eddie Land Festival in Monteroduni (Italy) and a year after joined workshop led by the legendary Barry Harris in Rome.

He currently lives in Bern and regularly plays at different venues in Switzerland and Europe leading his own projects and playing as a sideman.

Sławek found his own approach to guitar that represents the echoes of jazz guitar tradition and leaves him space to speak with his individual voice.

Victoria Mozalevskaya

is a Russian saxophonist born in Kasachstan. Victoria originally started playing clarinet but after one year decided to change for saxophone, finally deciding in 2005 to study at conservatory in Nowosibirsk – the only school in Siberia that had jazz program. During her studies in Nowosibirsk Victoria formed “Jazz City Band”, a group that was very active on the local music scene.

Viktoria won in 2008 a three week scholarship for “Open World” - jazz program led by Bob Mintzer in California (USA) and shortly after started her studies at University of Arts Bern with Andy Scherrer.

Victoria currently lives in Bern leading her own projects and works as sidewoman in various bands. She has already played at many jazz festivals and in 2012 fulfilled her biggest dream of living a whole year in New York and exploring American jazz scene.

Christoph Utzinger

born in Langnau (Switzerland) into a musical family. Christoph started playing double bass at age 6 first as an autodidact and later taking lessons with Thomas Dürst and Walter Schmocker. He finished his bachelor studies at Jazz School in Bern where he has studied with: Thomas Dürst, Patrice Moret, Bela Szédlák and Jonas Tauber finally going for master diploma in composition (Dieter Amman, Klaus Wagenleiter and Frank Sikora) and audio engineering (Andreas Brüll, Andreas Werner und Andreas Neresheimer). At his current work Christoph appears as an:

double bassist: Menschmaschine (Jazz), Agorà (Jazz) und Morgain (Irish Folk)

audio engineer in studio sessions and live concerts: Domi Chansorn, Swiss Jazz Orchestra, Hildegard lernt Fliegen, Steff la Cheffe, Traktorkestar, BeJazz Bern, Jazzwerkstatt Bern und Langnau Jazz Nights.

composer and arranger: Molly Monster (Animations-series/film).

Josua Beureux

as Child Josua started playing drums percussion and drums at music school. Before reaching 18 he was already playing with various orchestras, bands and singers, touring around Switzerland and abroad and appeared on many studio productions.

After finishing classical music school in Biel with distinction and three years in Swiss Jazz School, Josua continues his education at University of Arts Bern in bachelor program with Dejan Terzic.

He is currently playing in different formations: Chamber Orchestra, Dance-Drums Duo, various jazz bands and is preparing his debut album as a leader.

Links:

www.slawekplizga.com

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