

BERLIN CALLING

Short biographies

Carsten Daerr – piano

Born 1975 in Berlin. Classical piano lessons from 1982-95. From 1988-1991, he won several first prizes in the student composition competition "Schüler Komponieren". From 1996-2002, he studied jazz piano at the UdK Berlin with Kirk Nurock and Hubert Nuß. He received composition lessons from James Knapp, Maria Schneider and others. He has been leading and co-leading his own projects since 1998: "TUOMI" (with singer Kristiina Tuomi and Carlos Bica; CD-release of "Tightrope Walker" in 2005), the Carsten Daerr Trio (with Eric Schaefer and Oliver Potratz; CDs "PurpleCoolCarSleep" in 2003 and "Bantha Food" in 2006), the ensemble Daerr/Sieverts/Jütte (CD "Germany 12 Points", 2006, ACT 9653-2). Furthermore, he continually writes for various line-ups (f.ex.: a tribute to Rainer Maria Rilke, 2006). He has worked live and in the studio with Michael Schiefel, the Till Brönner Quintett, Christopher Dell, Christof Lauer and others.

Daniel Erdmann – tenor-, soprano- and baritone sax

Born on October 28th, 1973 in Wolfsburg. Erdmann has been playing the saxophone since 1983. He studied jazz saxophone from 1994-1999 at the Academy of Music "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin and received a grant from the Franco/German cultural council in 2001. He has been commuting between Berlin and Paris since then. From 1999 various CD-releases, his latest as a leader being: "Welcome to E3k" with his band Erdmann 3000. He has been playing in Europe, Asia and North America since 1989 with, among others, Aki Takase, Ed Schuller, John Schröder, Linda Sharrock, Yves Robert, Conny Bauer, Gebhard Ullmann, Frank Möbus, Herb Robertson, Tony Buck, Axel Dörner, John Betsch, Rudi Mahall, Pierre Dörge, Joe Williamson, Hans Hassler, Hasse Poulsen, Peter Kowald, Paul Brody and Chris Dahlgren. Further collaboration with choreographer Joshua Bisset and filmmakers Nicolas Humbert and Martin Otter.

Ritsche Koch – trumpet

Born on April 5th, 1979 in Tulln/Austria. At age 12, first attempts at improvisation in the jazz idiom. Degree courses at the Vienna Conservatory, at the University of Music Vienna with Franz Hautzinger, at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart, as well as at the UdK Berlin. Received two scholarships from the SKE-Foundation/Austro Mechana, the audience prize of the Berlin Jazz&Blues-Award. Koch has, since 1997, been co-leader of the project "Space Madness" with the Zurich bassist Christian Weber; intensive work with experimental improvisation. In 1998, he formed the project "Oral Office" with Christian Reiner, research on the fusion of language and music. In 2002 he starts "Ritsche & Zast" with Berlin artist Zast (Thomas Bratzke), research into the fusion of visual arts and music. Production of short films. Member of Berlin band "Olaf Ton" since 2002. 2003, collaboration in the dance piece "Risse" of Berlin choreographer Hans-Werner Kloehe, furthermore collaboration with the dancers Amigo (Flying Steps), Juylen Hamilton, and writer Wolf Wondratschek. Has been playing in the reggae band „Seed" since 2003. 2003, first solo performances in and around Berlin. Has been working on experimental children's theatre pieces with Austrian artists collective „TTT" since 2004.

Ronny Graupe - guitar

Born in 1979 in Karl-Marx-Stadt (now Chemnitz). Studied music at the Academy of Music and Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" in Leipzig and the "Rytmsk Musikkonservatorium" in Copenhagen, Denmark with Richie Beirach and Christian Röver. He won first prize in the competition "Jugend musiziert - Jugend jazzt" 1997 in Saxony. In 2001, he earned the young talent award of the city of Leipzig and the Marion Ermer Trust. From 1998 - 2001, he was a member of "Bujazzo" under the direction of Peter Herbolzheimer. He has played concerts in Spain, Denmark, Poland, France, Italy and England. He has worked, among others, with: Günter "Baby" Sommer, Méderick Colignien, Ignaz Dinné, Johannes Fink, Jonas Westergaard, Heinrich Köbberling, Ulrich Gumpert, John Schröder, Wanja Slavin, Alejandro Sanchez.

Oliver Potratz - bass

Born May 29th, 1973 in Hamburg. 1983-1992, violin lessons and member of the youth orchestra. 1988, electric bass as a second instrument. 1994 first double bass lessons with Hans Koch in Lübeck. 1995-1999 degree in orchestral bass playing at the HdK Berlin, with Prof. Michael Wolf, further lessons from Prof. Rainer Zepperitz (Berlin Philharmonic). 1998-2002 degree in jazz with Prof. S.Busch, Prof. D.Friedman und Prof. J.Granelli. Has been touring Europe with various ensembles since 1997. Has worked with: Peter Fulda, John Schröder, Hayden Chisholm, Mircea Tiberian, Tomasz Stanko, Bobby McFerrin, Gitte Haenning, Christof Lauer, Christopher Dell, Kalle Kalima and many more.

Sebastian Merk - drums

Born in 1977 in Frankfurt am Main, Sebastian Merk rapidly made a name for himself in the regional music scene. In the year, he was awarded a grant by the city of Frankfurt, which enabled him to go to New York - the Mecca of jazz - for further studies. In the spring of 2001, he started a degree course at the Academy of Music „Hanns Eisler“ in Berlin. Since then, he has been working on many new and interesting projects in Berlin. Tours and concerts have taken him to South America, the US, Canada, Italy and Spain. Sebastian Merk has played with such names as Lee Konitz, Ack van Rooyen, Till Brönner, Tony Lakatos, Torsten de Winkel, Frank Möbus, Peter Reiter as well as Martin Lejeune, with whom he performed at the German Jazz Festival in Frankfurt am Main.

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