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DAVID MENGUAL SLOW QUARTET

SLOW|U (2013)





Born in Barcelona (1971), David Mengual is one of the leading names in the Spanish jazz scene. After a long career as a restless leader of all kinds of groups, combined it with his work as a versatile double bass player, Mengual now presents his newest project, the SLOW QUARTET, with a record of significant future-oriented title: U ("Uno", which means "One" in Spanish).

Throughout his career, his contributions with prominent members of national and international jazz community features names like Barry Harris, George Cables, Kevin Hayes, Steve Wilson, Eric Alexander, Paul Edmonds, Spanky Willson, Perico Sambeat, Tim Garland, Mike Nielsen, Phillipe Thomas, José Luis Gamez, George Masso, Paul Stocker, Jordi Bonell, Albert Bover, Michelle McCain, Biella da Costa, Fabio Miano, David Sauzay, Gäel Horellau, Bill McHenry, Ben Waltzer, Nat Su, Christine Tobin, Kirk McDonald, Dana Hall, Lluís Vidal Trio, Orquestra de Cambra del Teatre Lliure, Mark Feldman, Joan Diaz Trio, Xavi Maureta Condió Humana, Llibert Fortuny Quartet/Electric Quintet...

But Mengual's influence is more clearly seen in his personal projects; a focus of artistic multipersonal creativity in which the creator acts as a catalyst of ideas, sensibilities and talents with a long list of sidemen and accomplices in the search. Since his first, award-winning tribute to Monk (Monkiana, 1997, Best Album of the Year by the magazine "Cuadernos de Jazz", Mengual constantly explores all kinds of formats and aesthetics, as can be heard in recordings as Des d'Aquí (1999), a duet with Albert Sanz (Spanish Best Album of the Year by the magazine "Cuadernos de Jazz"), or the diptych Mosaic (simultaneous edition of 2 CD with the same songs played freely with Dani Perez and Jon Robles, and in Nonet format with arrangements by Javier Feierstein). His

relentless search for new avenues of expression for the conventional jazz sound, both as a performer (multiawarded by the AMJC) and as a composer and arranger (in his project "Deriva", based on a succession of creative offshoots that find their starting point in some photographs of Carles Roche and flow through the poetry by David Castillo as a link between images and music) show his constant ambition to break the mould and to build new expressive bridges between his own personality and that of his partners.

Fully open to powerful electric sounds (participating in the Libert Fortuny Electric Quintet, Best Band of the Year in 2004 by the AMJC) or locked in the most radical intimate lyricism search (duet projects with saxophonist Jon Robles crystallized in the recordings "95/05" or "Descuentos"), Mengual has experienced in recent times with mutant formations that challenge forms or models in order to constantly reinvent themselves (changing teams that have given shape to his project "Maitia"). Committed to the formation of new musicians in the language of creative freedom -in his last two recordings he appeared in front of the young and exuberant David Mengual Free Spirit Big Band ("Univers Evans", 2010, "Menta, diari sonor", 2012) - Mengual returns today to his more introspective creative vein with the David Mengual Slow Quartet.

Once again surrounded by restless accomplices committed to the search for a unique sound -Miguel Villar, Toni Vaquer, Oriol Roca- the Slow Quartet, with its mesmerizing insistence in slow tempos, is an example of persistence with which the composer clings to an ever more refined vision of a project that can only be defined with a word: freedom.





## David Mengual

"David Mengual es uno de esos irreductibles que cuando deciden hacer algo, lo hacen a lo grande"

**Pere Pons**

A tener muy en cuenta en un panorama que, como el nuestro, no es muy dado a la aventura.

**Miquel Jurado, *El País***

Le contrabassiste David Mengual appartient à l'élite du jazz espagnol. (...) À découvrir absolument.

**Citizen Jazz**

Muestra una versatilidad y un poder evocador fuera de lo común

**Roger Roca**

Tanta ambición desmedida recompensa.

**J. A. Cararach**

Una demostración mayúscula -por si hiciera falta- de que, desde la contención, se puede dar una riqueza extraordinaria.

**Lluís Bruguera Cortada, *El Punt Diari***

La "velocidad" es un concepto muy interesante, y podemos entenderla como la manera en que el hombre percibe y tiene conciencia y conocimiento del mundo. Este mosaico está repleto de pinceladas, referencias, automatismos y sonidos de todos estos años. (...)

**G. Lazaro, *Cuadernos de Jazz***



Out on September, 16, 2013

## New record: U (One)



- 01 PERFRÉDERIC //
- 02 MASTICANDO ARENA //
- 03 SISTEMA IMMUNOLÒGIC //
- 04 MARCO INCOMPARABLE //
- 05 MARÇ //
- 06 ALERTA MOSQUES //
- 07 LA TORTUGA FERIDA //
- 08 IRACHE //

**David Mengual**, double bass  
**Pintxo Villar**, tenor sax  
**Toni Vaquer**, piano  
**Oriol Roca**, drums

**Sandrine Robillard**, cello (1, 4)



This project could be the inheritance of Mengual's previous work, *Maitia*, with new original pieces written with the aim of offering an excuse to project the personality of each and every musician and turning it into a slow, sincere and ephemeral dialogue.

Pintxo Villar, Toni Vaquer y Oriol Roca fulfill this need thanks to their personal and musical affinity as well as their enormous talent and sensitivity.

These songs are inspired by simplicity and space, an silence is another essential element in the band, fighting against the excessive information and betting on lyricism and authenticity of speech.

"U" ("One") is the name of this first work by the David Mengual Slow Quartet, the starting point of a project intended to be a real work in progress.



## The Band

**Miguel Pintxo Villar** (Pamplona) has grown as a musician under the tuition of some of the greatest names of Spanish jazz (Gorka Benítez, Victor de Diego etc ...). Villar completed his training attending master classes with relevant teachers such as Lee Konitz, Paul Bley, George Coleman, Javier Colina, Mark Turner, Jorge Pardo, Hermeto Pascoal, among others. Permanent member of formations as Giulia Valle Group, Guillermo Klein Sextet, Teresa Zabalza Quintet, Asociación Libre Orkesta and Melódic Workshop de Joe Smith, Jaume Llombart Sextet, has also played with artists like Kase O, Jorge Rossy, Donald Harrison, Wicliffe Gordon y Terell Stadford. Currently coordinates the jazz jam session in Robadors 23 Barcelona with Juan Pablo Balcazar and Carlos Falanga and plays in the David Mengual Free Spirits Big Band, David Mengual Slow Quartet BDB. Colectivo, Jordi Gardeñas Quartet y Villar-Balcazar-Falanga Trio.

**Toni Vaquer** (Barcelona, 1986) trained as a pianist at the Liceu Conservatory (Modern music section) attending master classes with Joan Albert Amargós, Sergi Vergés, Bill McHenry, Eddie Gomez, Jorge Rossy, Joe Martin, Bruce Barth, Dave Kikoski, Steve Grossmann, Peter Bernstein, Dave Frank, among others. Member of the Slow Quartet of David Mengual and Felix Rossy Quintet, led his own projects such as Llombart / Vaquer Duo, Sleepy Koala Trio y el septeto La companyia ACME. As arranger for the Sant Cugat Big Band, directed by David Mengual, has received several awards and honourable mentions throughout his career, which moves under a sign of constant creativity (in 2010 he undertook a unique project which consisted in composing one piece daily for a year, resulting in a work of 365 subjects, and 52 danced variations).

**Oriol Roca** (Barcelona, 1979) began his musical studies in Barcelona, but in 2001 he moved to Holland to study at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, where he had the opportunity to study under the tuition of musicians like Billy Hart, Avishai Cohen, Ari Hoenig, Bill Carrothers, Dave Liebman, Frans van der Hoeven, Rob van Kreeveld, Michael Brecker, Eric Ineke, Jo Krause, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Barry Harris, Willie Jones III, Frits Landesbergen, Mike Manieri, Stefan Krüger, Bill Stewart or Peter Erskine. After returning to Barcelona in 2006, he continues playing regularly in France, Belgium and Holland with musicians like Erik Vermeulen, Alexandra Grimal, Giovanni di Domenico, Lynn Cassiers, Vrak' Trio, Manolo Cabras, Riccardo Luppi, Brice Soniano, Joachim Badenhorst, Augusto Pirodda, Jeroen van Herzeele, Didier Labbé, Jozef Dumoulin or Ben Sluijs, among others. In his hometown he collaborates with musicians like David Mengual, Giulia Valle, Bill McHenry, Tom Chant, Jordi Matas, Gorka Benítez, Santi Careta, Sergi Sirvent, Gorka Benítez, David Soler, Masa Kamaguchi, Jordi Gaspar, Marko Lohikari, Paolo Angeli, Dani Pérez, Miguel Fernández, Marco Mezquida, David Soler, David Xirgu, Sasha Agranov or Joan Díaz. In 2009, he recorded his first album with his name, a solo drums disc "La Tombola of Giganti" (Whataboutmusic 2010) - nominated for the best proposal in 2010 by the magazine Jaç.

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## Selected Discography



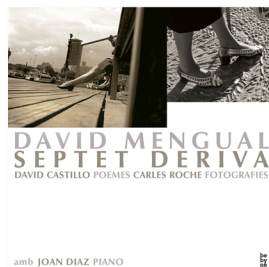
**Mosaic Trio (2000)**  
**Satchmo Jazz Records**

David Mengual, bass  
Dani Pérez, guitar  
Jon Robles, sax



**Mosaic Nonet (2000)**  
**Satchmo Jazz Records**

Benet Palet, trumpet  
Gorka Benítez, sax  
Jon Robles, sax  
Carlos Martín, trombone  
Albert Sanz, piano  
Antonio Serrano, harmonica  
Dani Pérez, guitar  
David Mengual, bass  
David Xirgu, drums



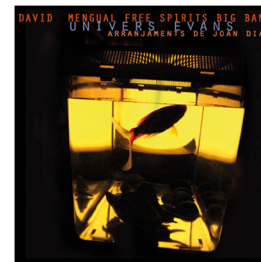
**Septet Deriva (2003,**  
**Satchmo Jazz Records)**  
**Reedición digital: 2013,**  
**Bebyne**

David Mengual, bass  
Joan Díaz, piano  
Carme Canela, vocals  
Gorka Benítez, sax  
Jon Robles, sax  
Dani Pérez, guitar  
Lito Iglesias, cello  
David Xirgu, drums  
David Gómez, drums



**Maitia (2011)**  
**Quadrant Records**

David Mengual, bass, piano  
Joan Díaz, piano, mellodica  
Giulia Valle, bass  
Dani Pérez, guitar  
Oriol Roca, drums & toys  
David Xirgu, drums & toys

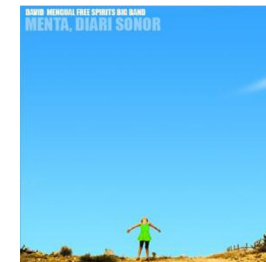


**Univers Bill Evans (2011)**  
**Quadrant Records**

David Mengual, director

**Free Spirits Big Band:**

Miguel Villar, alto sax  
Joan Mas, alto sax  
Juan Clavero, tenor sax  
Gonzalo Levin, tenor sax  
Alvar Monfort, trumpet  
Iván González, trumpet  
Natsuko Sugao, trumpet  
Marc Joaniquet, trombone  
Aram Montagut, trombone  
Isidre Palmada, trombone  
Guillem Jubany, guitar  
Lina Lomanto, piano  
Alex Reviriego, bass, db  
Santi Colomer, drums



**Menta, Diari Sonor (2012)**  
**Jazzenviu Records**

David Mengual, direction

**Free Spirits Big Band:**

Alvar Montfort, trumpet  
Natsuko Sugao, trumpet  
Ivan González, trumpet  
Joan Mas, saxo alto, flute  
Miguel Villar, a, t, s saxes  
Juan Clavero, t sax, harmonica  
Gonzalo Levin, t sax, flute  
Aram Montagut, trombone  
Marc Joaniquet, trombone  
Dario García, trombone  
Lina Lomanto, piano  
Guillem Jubany, guitars  
Alex Reviriego, double bass  
Josema Martín, drums, perc.  
Jordi Herreros, drums, perc.  
Celeste Alías, vocals  
Pablo Selnik, flute  
David Soler, pedal steel, guit.

### OTHER RECORDINGS AS A LEADER/CO-LEADER

- David Mengual Quartet & Paul Stocker (1995, Gest Records)
- David Mengual, *Monkiana* (1997, Fresh Sound New Talent)
- Albert Sanz & David Mengual, *Des d'aquí* (1999, Satchmo Jazz Records)
- David Mengual & Jon Robles *95/05 Duets* (2005, New Mood Jazz)
- David Mengual & Jon Robles *Duet, Descuentos* (2007, New Mood Jazz)



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David Mengual



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