



FOR FREE HANDS | Berlin . Sofia . Athen | JAZZ - BALKAN - FUNK

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Andreas Brunn (Germany) 7 string acoustic guitar, e-guitar | Vladimir Karparov (Bulgaria) soprano & tenor saxophone | Dimitris Christides (Greece) drums, percussion | George Donchev (Bulgaria) double bass

For Free Hands establish a strong connection between contemporary jazz and traditional European music. This innovative ensemble met in Berlin - a city which attracts artists from all over the world due to its diverse and fascinating scene. Their meeting gave birth to a living European urban sound which reflects the true spirit of our age. This unity of European music is reflected in **FOR FREE HANDS'** music.

For Free Hands represents the international jazz community in Berlin with Vladimir Karparov, Dimitris Christides, George Donchev and Andreas Brunn.

The **Rheinpresse** wrote about one concert: "For Free Hands combines captivating, intriguing improvisation with folklore, working with rock, pop and classical music, taking the best elements from avant-garde. They look far ahead with all the consciousness of their traditional roots. You have, at a glance, European Contemporary Jazz, full of complex rhythms and astonishing grooves that they play on stage with great relish. ... Four musicians from three different nations that take the stage and break all barriers, and call for the freedom of the world with their instruments."



Current:

FOR FREE HANDS are winners of the 2012 edition of Studiopreis Jazz, hosted by Berlin Kultursenat. The new CD „Kaleidoscope Freedom“ is available now at [LAIKA Records](#).

The last couple of weeks have been very successful for For Free Hands: [JAZZ PODIUM](#) and [JAZZ Thing](#) have both published reviews for the new CD. In the famous German jazz magazine [JAZZPODIUM](#) published a double-sided interview with Andreas Brunn. [SPIEGEL ONLINE](#) also wrote about the new record. **Christian Erber** presented the new FOR FREE HANDS CD in the [NDR-Sendung "PlayJazz"](#) and **Ulf Drechsel** on [RBB Late Night Jazz](#).

In September 2014 our ensemble played in front of 2000 people at [JAZZ au CHELLAH](#) in Morocco and created an intense cooperation with Oud-virtuoso [Alaa Zouiten](#).

Furthermore, we have also played at Spanish festivals MuniJazz Festival and Jazzfestival MALAGA and toured with [PORGY & BESS](#) (among others) in Vienna, Austria.

Festivals (Selection): Burghausener Jazzherbst, Ostsee Jazzfestival Rostock, Jazzfest Worms, Clubfestival der IG Jazz Wien, Jazzrallye Düsseldorf, Jazzfestival Tangente (Liechtenstein), Leverkusener Jazztagen, PORI JAZZ Festival (Finland), Jazzfestival Gniesno (Poland), Jazzfestival Fürstenwalde, Jenaer Jazzfrühling, Festival de la Cite Lausanne (Switzerland), Summer Jazz Festival Krakow (Poland), Bansko Jazz Festival (Bulgaria), Nišville Jazzfestival (Serbia), Thüringer Jazzmeile, Jazzfestival Munilla (Spanien), Jazzfestival Malaga (Spanien) Jazztime Festival Hildesheim

Press:

JAZZ Thing 2014 / Issue 106: "Those who can count have a clear advantage, and being able to do fractions does not hurt either. 5/8, 7/8 & 13/16 are some of the rhythmic fabrics that together form the outfit of the multicultural Berlin-based quartet FOR FREE HANDS on its new CD "Kaleidoscope Freedom", and it teems with surprising twists and turns, pitfalls and tricky cliffs.

Biographical references also play a key role, like the openness of the many facets with which they encounter the former city wall. But biography and identity are not all that matter, rather the self-evident certainty with which the quartet drives the various facets of electrified jazz and charges of energy – and also, crucial is the exuberant joy of playing." **Stephan Hentz**

JAZZPODIUM 9/2014: "Andreas Brunn is a dedicated guitarist and composer, an active mediatorial and reconciler and particularly fond of the East, nota bene Bulgaria. (...) "Perpetuum five" comes as electrified post-bop, grippy, squared, edged, angry, mad, jazzy. Karparov is lively and striking. And there is the uncomfortable "Magic Friday" or the title track, in which Karparov's tendency to occasional lyricism and Brunn's occasional "circuit-with-funny outbursts" provide the contrast that generates voltage and excitement.

Or view the "East Side Gallery"'s story as the story of a quartet who, without doubt, would be able to find a comfortable place for themselves in the world, but instead they use the burden of time and the historical workup and responsibly turn it into harmless music that otherwise must have been uncomfortable to make. And it is just then that they are at their best. And on the double bass, George Donchev still plays exactly the bittersweet mix of boundless joy and all what lurks just beneath that joy." **Alexander Schmitz**

Gaildorfer Rundschau 2014: "... Specialist in infernal rhythms – effusively, intoxicating– that's how the quartet "For Free Hands" have presented themselves. Compositions from their new studio-album „Kaleidoscope Freedom" surprised the audience. The polymetric concepts produced an unusual tension in the music. When in "Magic Friday" guitar- and saxophone cadences mixed over a 13/16 beat, the musicians took it like ducks to water. "For Free Hands" left the audience flabbergasted. ..."

Westfälische Zeitung 2013: "... The ensemble FOR FREE HANDS to the known strings virtuoso and composer Andreas Brunn offered the enthusiastic audience with his energetic way of playing a best example of contemporary jazz. In a true "Kaleidoscope Freedom", the quartet showed his view of the world, appeared sound-picturesque images of haunting beauty. ..."

Braunschweiger Zeitung 2012: "... Is For Free Hands a programmatic name? Approximately unrestricted freedom of musical expression? Well, the music brings it to light. For example, "Perpetuum 5". Slow onset, stepping up the pace. Very fast chord changes, in any quarter time, if not on the eighth. Andreas Brunn's guitar solo: In the best John Scofield style, liquid melody lines and rapid chord changes merged. ... "

Modernícolas, Malaga 2011: FOR FREE HANDS @ MALAGA JAZZ FESTIVAL: "... a New Way of understanding the Jazz ... Synergy is the word to define this Berlin quartet. For Free Hands stands for contemporary jazz. Dissonant sounds developed into beautiful melodies that hover over a richly varied rhythm rug. This impressive quartet hit with his music, which united different cultures, all present in their spell ..."



Andreas Brunn



Studied guitar and music theory at the renowned Franz Liszt University in Weimar. His composition 'Two Faces' won the first prize at the national guitar composition contest Open Strings, hosted by the magazine Akustik Gitarre.

The guitarist toured European and Asian festivals. He has worked with Uli Bartel, Mack Goldsbury, Ralf Siedhoff, Ferenc Snetberger, Stojan Yankoulov, Ateshan Husseinov and Petri Hakala. In 2003, he received a scholarship from the governmental administration for Science, Research and Culture of Berlin to go to Bulgaria and, in 2008, he also received another scholarship to go to Finland.

Vladimir Karparov

Began studying jazz at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hamburg, in 1999. Karparov moved to the German capital in 2002 to continue his studies at Berlin's Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler and graduated in 2005 with a degree in teaching and saxophone play.

His participation in various festival events and numerous concerts alongside the accumulation of awards in Europe, Asia and Latin America complete the picture of this versatile musician: Vladimir Karparov has played and/or toured with Theodosii Spassov, Jiggs Whigham, Gerard Presencer, Ivo Papasov, Kenny Wheeler, Okay Temiz, John Hollenbeck, Gebhard Ullmann, Peter Herbolzheimer, Martin Lubenov and Stoyan Yankoulov.



Dimitris Christides



When he was eighteen he moved to England where he studied popular music at the London College of Music. He learnt his craft with the help of Paul Elliot, Pete Zeldman, Spyros Panagiotopoulos and Jojo Mayer. Dimitris Christides has been living and working in Berlin since 2003. For three years he has taught in Drumschool Berlin.

Since moving to Berlin he has been performing and recording with countless projects and artists in various styles of music: Bob Lennox, Hans Hartmann, Jesse Ballard, Ron Spielman, Ali Keita, Abdourahmane Diop, Hub Hildenbrand, Ray Blue, Leon Gurvitch, Koulak Quartett, Romenca trio and the Bukarester Tango Project.

George Donchev

Born in 1967, to say the least, an artist in line with the greatest international musicians, attended Berklee College of Music. Ennio Morricone, his super talent as a bass virtuoso, made it possible for him to collaborate with great artists like Nat Mugavero, Hal Crook, George Benson & many other fabulous artists.

His works also feature in documentaries such as "The children of Drujba", "Plastic man", "Citizen can" and "Three man around". Furthermore Theater pieces like, "Three days of rain", "Spiele für Mörder, Opfer und Sonstige (Shakespeare)" and "The water", where spiced up by his touch. He is based in Berlin, working with 'Deutsches Theater', on the "A Night at the Movies" project. He is also currently involved with the international quartet, FOR FREE HANDS.



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