



JAZZATOR

Marina Sobyana composition, piano, vocals
Oleg Mariakhin baritone saxophone/alto saxophone
Sergey Balashov drums, toys
Maximilian Grossenbacher double abass

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JAZZATOR is a Russian-Swiss quartet that has embarked upon an adventurous mission of blending together chamber music and jazz, free improvisation and wild post-breakbeat grooving. The result is a powerful iconoclastic sound and an exciting action that takes place on stage.

The band consists of a composer/pianist/singer Marina Sobyana, baritone saxophonist Oleg Mariakhin, bass player Maximilian Grossenbacher and a drummer Sergey Balashov. The four musicians have fun with complicated rhythmical structures and at the same time don't compromise the melodic beauty of their compositions. Curiously, Jazzator's music has been compared by the same critic to both Acoustic Ladyland and works of Sergei Prokofiev. Original compositions by Marina Sobyana get further enlivened by improvised acrobatics on the instruments and practical jokes that musicians play on each other and the audience.

JAZZATOR has released three studio albums (last release – "Nonagon", 2014, Unit Records) and appeared at some of the major European jazz festivals such as Bohemia Jazz Festival (Cz), Jazzwerkstatt Bern(CH) and Usadba Jazz (Ru).

The band has been exploring the 'cinematic' potential of their music playing live soundtracks for a number of theater productions and silent movies. The band's leader Marina Sobyana has shared stage with Bobby McFerrin and Zap Mama as a vocalist and has composed music for a Ballet Orchestra, chamber orchestras, a number of theater projects, films and for various ensembles from big bands to classical outfits.

Selected reviews

“Das russisch-schweizerische Quartett um die Sängerin und Pianistin Marina Sobyana kennt für seine Musik keine Grenzen... Kompakt pulsierende Beats und schräge Takte erinnern an Bartók und Funk zugleich, kleine Überraschungen lauern in jeder Komposition...Souverän, ganz eigen und fesselnd ist der Sound dieser Band.” (Jazz Thing, 2014)

“Das russisch-schweizerische Quartett vermag es, Punk und Prokofiev spannungsgeladen, mit viel Spielwitz und aufs Feinste auf einen Nenner zu bringen” (Jazz'n'More, 2014)

“Energie, Flow und Form läutet das musikalische Credo von Marina Sobyana. Die Musik der jungen Powerfrau und ihres Trios JAZZATOR klingt ebenso crazy wie vielversprechend. Ihre Lieblingskomponisten sind Strawinsky, Bartok und Ligeti. Und das hört man ihrer Musik, die sie mit ihrem Trio JAZZATOR (man beachte die eigenwillige Besetzung: Piano, Baritonsaxofon, Drums) interpretiert, auch an“ (Jazz'n'More, CH, 2013)

“A first encounter with JAZZATOR leaves a strong impression. The voice of Marina Sobyana is not for the faint-hearted. As we mentioned earlier this season, her vocal acrobatics have been recognized far and wide; she has shared a stage with Bobby McFerrin, which - in terms of kindred spirits - gives some indication of her improvised wizardry. Experiment and calculated risk are both on display. In short, there's an overriding air of expertise and dizzying potential... “ (D.MacFadyen, California University, USA)

“Vocalist and piano player Marina Sobyana and her band – Sergey Balashov (drums) and Oleg Mariakhin (baritone sax) show us an unusual approach to free jazz. On the “Dome” album there’s space for unrest and hysteria, broken rhythms, piano explosions, saxophone shrieks, but each avant-garde fragment leaves us a hope for some traditional harmony. And vice versa. “ (The Moscow Times, RU)

“This is sort of an acoustic punk-jazz equipped with amazing vocals imitating things, piano passages reminiscent of Bartok and Prokofiev and the-Necks-style minimalist repetitions. An acoustic reproduction of electric rock energy is what JAZZATOR has in common with the European post-jazz wave: bands like F-ire, Acoustic Ladyland and Neil Cowley Trio. “ (D.Ukhov, Radio Culture, RU)

“Eine abenteuerliche, höchste spannende Verschränkung von Punk-Jazz, Song-writing, freier Improvisation und repetitiver zeitgenössischer Kammermusik” (Andreas Felber, Ö1, AUT)

Discography

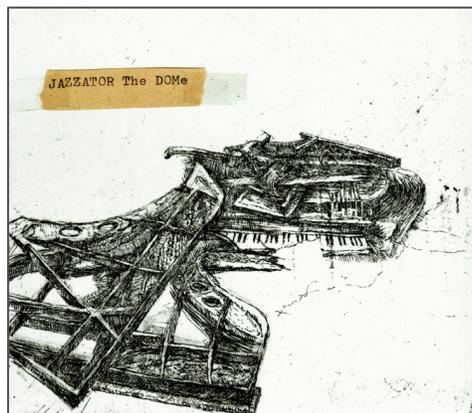
"NONAGON" 2014

(Unit Records, CH. Artwork by [Vika Vinogradova](#))



"The DOME" 2012

(ArtBeat, RU. Artwork by [Vika Vinogradova](#))



"Rough Terrain" 2010

(Artwork by [Vika Vinogradova](#))

