

# HERITAGE TRIO

Thierry Lang - Darryl Hall - Mario Gonzi

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BIOGRAPHIES

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## THIERRY LANG

composition and pianist

The Swiss pianist and composer Thierry Lang was born in Romont, a little town in Canton Fribourg. He began to learn the piano at the age of 5 and at 7 he had decided to make it his career and his life. He studied classical music with great success until he was 21, though jazz fascinated him all the while. He discovered this music through listening to blues pianists, with Erroll Garner and then Oscar Peterson quickly proving formative influences. It was not until he was 15 that he heard for the first time the musician who would become and remain his ideal: Bill Evans.

In the music of this pianist, he essentially found a perfect link between classical music and jazz. Thus it was that Thierry Lang found his own means of musical expression. He is a composer gifted with a great sense of melody, and rapidly became one of the masters in his field. His tours and his recordings have made him known in all four corners of the earth. In 1995 his CD *Private Garden* was awarded the prize for the best CD of the year in Japan. He became the first Swiss musician to be given a contract on the famous Blue Note label. From that moment on, the number of his concerts, his tours and his recordings grew and grew. He has in the meantime released some twenty CDs and Thierry Lang is currently working on publishing his own compositions. In 2004 he was awarded the grand prix by the Foundation for the Promotion of Artistic Work in Canton Vaud, and it was this prize that allowed him to acquire the piano of his dreams. In 2005 he opened his recording studio to the public and to interested musicians.

In 2007 he paid homage to his home canton's best-known composer, Joseph Bovet, and formed the septet named «LYOBA» for the occasion, with which he tours Europe.

In 2004 he received the Swiss cantonal distinction « Grand prix de la fondation vaudoise pour la Promotion et la Création artistique ».

In 2008 he was made a «Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters» by the French Minister of Culture in the recognition of his significant contributions to the arts, literature, and the propagation of these fields.

In the same year he was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa from the European University.



## DARRYL HALL

bassist

Darryl is a freelance bassist currently living in France. He moved ten years ago from Brooklyn New York where he participated in the large vibrant music community of great artists living in the «city». The world is now his community as he encounters projects/tours with artists from the U.S. and Europe, traveling around the globe.

He was born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, birthplace to some of the worlds finest bassists including Stanley Clarke, Jaco Pastorius, Alphonso Johnson, Charles Fambrough, Percy Heath, Jymie Merritt, Christian McBride, Arthur Harper, Tyrone Brown, and Victor Bailey.

Darryl has performed with many renowned jazz artists from around the world, in a wide variety of genres. During his living in New York, he performed with Mulgrew Miller, Carmen Lundy, Hank Jones, Geri Allen, James Williams, Regina Carter, Ravi Coltrane and Robert Glasper among others. In 1996 he was the winner of the Thelonious Monk International Bass Competition. Since 2004, he has lived in France and has performed with many European and American artists throughout Europe, including, Martial Solal, Cedar Walton, Kirk Lightsey, Dianne Reeves, Didier Lockwood, Christian Escoude, Florin Nicolescu, Ximo Tebar, Enrico Piranunzi, Rosario Guiliani, Uri Caine, Joe Locke, Willie Jones, Wayne Escoffery and Laurent de Wilde among others.

Being mainly self-taught (and under the tutelage of hometown jazz mentors including Gerald Price, Tyrone Brown, Tony Williams (sax)) Darryl learned early to appreciate many types of music. But he holds the strongest allegiance performing music of the African American diaspora: jazz, gospel, soul and latin . He also has a great love for and wide familiarity to the music of Brazil. His Versatility, Soulfulness, Openness, and Professionalism, imposed him as a bass accompanist of choice for many of the greats.



## MARIO GONZI

drummer

Mario was born in 1966 near Vienna, Austria. He started playing drums at age 5, and began his studies at the "Konservatorium der Stadt Wien" at age 13. He started working with trumpet master Art Farmer in 1984, and stayed with Art until his untimely death in 1998. In 1989 Mario was Paquito D'Rivera's regular drummer in the US.

Between 1999 and 2008, Mario worked with The Vienna Art Orchestra. This helped him to get established as a much-in-demand Big Band drummer, and led him to work with some of Europe's Radio and freelance orchestras, like The Joe Haider/Bert Joris-Anniversary Big Band (1992), The Generations Big Band (2000, 2002 and 2004), The Hessischen Rundfunk Big Band (2006 and 2009), The Sunday Night Orchestra, The Budapest Jazz Orchestra, and The Barcelona Jazz Orchestra.

One of the most active freelance drummers in Europe, Mario has worked with Benny Golson, Johnny Griffin, Phil Woods, Johnny Griffin, Vincent Herring, Red Holloway, Brad Lealy, Charlie Rouse, Sal Nistico, Odean Pope, Jim Pepper, Ernie Wilkins, Buddy deFranco, Scott Hamilton, Jesse Davis, Andy Scherrer, Sal Nistico, Bob Berg, Dick Oatts, Larry Porter, Ferdinand Povel, Roman Schwaller, Gary Smulyan, Bobby Watson, Allan Praskin, Benny Bailey, Randy Brecker, Derrick Gardner, Dusko Gojkovic, John Marshall, Ack van Royen, Claudio Roditti, Clark Terry, Thomas Gansch, Bob Brookmayer, Peter Herbolzheimer, Jim Galloway, Jay McShann, Cedar Walton, Richie Beirach, Don Friedman, Kirk Lightsey, Mal Waldron, Kenny Werner, Fritz Pauer, Dado Moroni, Joe Haider, Chuck Israels, Jimmy Woode, Isla Eckinger, Reggie Johnson, Ed Schuller, Paulo Cardoso, Carl Ratzer, Emily Remler, Ann Hampton Callaway, Roberta Gambarini, Mark Murphy, Dena DeRose, Kevin Mahogany, Etta Cameron, Sheila Jordan, Marianne Mendt, Mark Murphy, Shawn Monteiro, Take Six, and many more.

Mario received the "Hans Koller Jazz-award" as "Sideman of the year 2001".

