

THIERRY LANG TRIO

Thierry Lang - Heiri Känzig - Andi Pupato

BIOGRAPHIES

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.



HEIRI KÄNZIG

Contrabass

Heiri Känzig was born in New York in 1957 to an Argentinian mother. He began his career as a jazz musician when he entered the conservatory in Graz in Austria at the age of 18. Shortly after beginning his studies he founded the now famous Vienna Art Orchestra together with Matthias Rüegg. He worked with the VAO for 15 years, touring the whole world with them. In 1989 he became the first foreign musician to be made a member of the Orchestre Nationale de Jazz (ONJ) in France.

In 2002 the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) appointed Känzig the artistic director of the transcultural project «Thien Shan Schweiz Express», which ran in conjunction with the Internation Year of Mountains.

In 2005 Canton Zurich awarded him its grand prix in composition.

He has regularly toured worldwide with a variety of musicians and, most notably, has played with such musicians as John Scofield, Billy Cobham, Pierre Favre, Adam Nussbaum, Bob Mintzer, Charlie Mariano, Kenny Wheeler, NENA, Ralph Towner, Betty Carter, Art Farmer, Johnny Griffin, Andreas Vollenweider, Max Lässer, Daniel Humair, Christy Doran, Dominique Pifarély, Andreas Vollenweider, Gary Thomas, George Gruntz, Jerry Bergonzi, Mark Feldman, Didier Lockwood, Franco Ambrosetti, Glenn Ferris, Thierry Lang, Dieter Meier (Yello), David Linx, Richard Galliano und Billy Hart. In the early 90s, Heiri Känzig formed his own quartet with Art Lande, Kenny Wheeler and François Laiszeau. Afterwards, he undertook projects with Kenny Wheeler, Charlie Mariano and Paul McCandless before joining up as bassist with the Thierry Lang Trio, with whom he recorded six CD's for the American Label Blue Note.

Currently he is touring with his own band DEPART (Jojo Mayer/Harry Sokal), Billy Hart/Charlie Miklin, Thierry Lang, Glenn Ferris, Lyoba, Jean Christoph Cholet Trio and is involved in a world music project with the Algerien Smahi Brothers and Billy Cobhan a.o.

Jazz Lexicon describes Heiri Känzig as an «insiders' tip musician, specialized in individualistic yet highly melodic lines». His work can be found on the Blue Note, ACT, Universal and Virgin labels.

Besides playing in numerous concerts, Känzig is professor of double bass at Lucerne School of Music.



ANDI PUPATO

percussion

Andi Pupato is born in 1971 in Zurich. He studied percussion in Zurich, later at the Escuela de superación profesional de musica Ignacio Cervantes in Havana, Cuba and with José Luis «Changuito» in Quintana. In 1994, Andi went to Senegal with the Senegalese master drummer Kounta's band «Dougou-Fana», where he studied traditional African percussion.

At present, he works as a percussionist for various Swiss and international bands and is an active studio musician Andreas Vollenweider, Thierry Lang Quartet, Chico and the Gypsies, UMA, Nik Bärtsch's Ronin, Gotthard and many more.

He played percussion on over the last years reached gold or platinum status, like : Seven, Marc Sway, Polo Hofer, Caroline Chevin, Gotthard, ...

And played percussion on many movie soundtracks composed by Niki Reiser, like: Academy Award Winner «Nowhere in Africa», «Väter», «Alles auf Zucker», «Die weisse Massai», «Gripsholm», «Keiner Liebt Mich», «Das Trio», «Pünktchen und Anton», «Maria, ihm schmeckt's nicht», and many more.

He was He was the percussionist for all Nik Bärtsch's Ronin CD's from 2002-2012. He also worked as a sound engineer and mixed and mastered various records from Nik Bärtsch's Ronin.

