

off&out



Melanie Russo (PT) vocals, special guest

Melanie is a great singer from Portugal. She has been part of various projects and performing on many stages. Thereby, she got to know a number of fabulous musicians who inspired her not only as a musician but also as a person. In Portugal she is regularly on tour with the fado trio "Acordes no Páteo".

„That’s my journey, great and satisfying, and I’m happy to have found my way as singer, songwriter and composer. I am looking forward to continue to share the stage with excellent musicians. We will take you on an interesting musical journey, including Fado, Jazz, a lot of Groove and Soul.”

www.facebook.com/melanie.russo.piano



Georgios “GK” Kotsaridis (CH) vocals

The Greek guitarist and singer Gee-K (Georgios Kotsaridis), who lives in St. Gallen, does not hesitate for long. Once he sings about the "Superwoman", supported by groovy brass, sometimes he ponders "I wanna be gay" in the best sex machine manner. It's the good feeling that is the focus on his new album "3rd & Last". He works with the singer Anastacia Panagiotou and the singer Malcolm Green and is master of ceremonies for the Chillifunk event series in St. Gallen. Gee-K was on stage with Eigenmann together with the project "Jessy's Sound Kitchen" with the singer Jessica Hirschi in the Lokremise St. Gallen, as well as at the International Festival jazzin 2016 in St. Gallen with "Jazzonia".

www.gee-k.ch/site/?page_id=24



Michael Neff (CH) trumpet, flugelhorn

Michael Neff grew up on a farm in the Appenzellerland. He became enthusiastic about music at an early age and has played the trumpet since his youth - first in a brass band and in a groovy funk band, together with school colleagues. He discovered jazz at the St. Gallen Jazz School, where he studied trumpet and jazz improvisation with the main subject teachers Bernhard Schoch and Lester Menezes. After completing his professional studies in 2000, he was awarded the sponsorship prize of the Cultural Foundation of the Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden. This enabled him to spend six months in New York with classes with Eddie Henderson, Cecil Bridgewater and Mike Le Donne! He also attended various jazz improvisation workshops with Michel Matthieu, Randy Brecker, Adrian Mears, Jiggs Wigham, Wayne Bergeron and other inspiring artists. In 2008 he received another grant from the Ausserrhodische Kulturstiftung. This enabled him to spend a composition semester abroad with saxophonist/composer Andy Middleton at the Konservatorium Wien. Since 2000 he has been leading his own band "Michael Neff Group" and plays in many different projects.

www.michael-neff.ch



Markus Bittmann (CH) tenor sax

After completing his classical trumpet training, Markus Bittmann switched to the saxophone shortly before entering military music. At the age of 17 he was a finalist in the DRS3 band contest and has since played over 1000 concerts with rock and funk bands such as Soap Soup, Waterproof, Fritz and Tino, Hotwash, Wilde 13, Elias Bernet, Wilden Tiger, Bigband 14u, Amazonas Chor, RumbleFish, BossAffair and in places such as Open Air St. Gallen, Arbon, Bischofszell, Jazz Festival Montreux, Pentorama, Panem. Today he is currently a member of the bands Red Cube, Zuccherino & Friends, Santandrea Band and Markus Bittmann is on the road with various other projects. He says: "Music was my first love".

www.bittmann.ch



Uli Binetsch (D) Trombone

The sought-after German trombonist and pianist Uli Binetsch can also offer a never-ending biography. He is not only active in the border triangle (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). He has made a name for himself with various bands, orchestras and music productions far beyond this region. Meanwhile he is on the road worldwide in the fields of jazz, rock, pop and classical music. Whether as bandleader, soloist, arranger or as sideman and lecturer. He started with classical piano lessons, then was pianist and keyboarder in various jazz rock formations and later trombonist in the Jazz Big Band Ulm. He studied trombone for five years at the Vorarlberg/Austria State Conservatory, majoring in trombone with Prof. Mag. J. Amann, has been a teacher at the Jazz-Seminar Dornbirn/Austria since 1986 and was a member of the "Bregenzer Festspiel Choir" for a while, was a member of the Symphonieorchester der Internationalen Musiktheatertage Bregenz (Wagner - Zyklus) in 1988 and, and, and... Uli Binetsch has played with countless great music makers such as Paz Luaces, Jose Luiz Cortez, Gregor Gonzales (Irakere), Mariagrazia Pistan (solo harpist Volksoper Wien, Wiener Symphoniker), the Jam Factory Big Band with Peter Herbolzheimer, Peter Madsen (piano, pianist of the Mingus Big Band New York, more than fifty CD's with Fred Wesley, MaceoParker, Stan Getz, Joe Lovano, Kenny Garrett, Randy Brecker, Stanley Turrentine and others), the Jam Factory Big Band with Peter Herbolzheimer, the Mingus Big Band New York, the Mingus Big Band New York and the Mingus Big Band New York.the Dani Felber Big Band, the "New York SKA Jazz Ensemble" and many more. In 2010 he won the "Swiss Jazz Award" with the Dani Felber Concert Jazz Big Band.

www.uli-binetsch.de



Alex Steiner (CH) quit

teaches guitar and choral singing as a diploma music teacher in the region of St.Gallen. He is trained at the Jazz Scool St.Gallen. It plays with the well-known band "Red Cube" and in other various other groups, as well as with Simon Johnson's "Bluesonix" and as a studio musician.

www.facebook.com/alex.steiner.5203



Urs C. Eigenmann (CH) keys

Urs is mainly a self-taught musician. However, he did study at the Jass Scool Graz (A) and Bern (CH). In 1967, he established the Urs Carl Eigenmann-Trio, a true Blues band. Shortly after, in 1968, he formed the legendary band off&out. With this band, Urs played many concerts, among others, several times at the Jazzfestival Zürich. In addition, Urs formed the band Umamaca with which he performed at the Open Air St. Gallen, in 1985. Urs has also been a successful composer. Two of his major works include the commissioned work Open Opera (1993), as well as the total work of art Alli Zäme (1998). In 2008, he initiated the international festival Jazzin which he has been organizing 3/3 regularly. „The list of musicians who were part of off&out is long and impressive. And by the way, but not to forget: Urs C. Eigenmann made real Swiss Jazz history. It cannot be another 50 years, but as long as this „fellow“ exists, we can expect a lot more of off&out – and we are looking forward to it!“, wrote the journalist Richard Butz.

www.ursc.ch



Marc Ray Oxendine (USA) bass

was born in Manhattan, New York City... 1982-1985 Grandmothers Love, Pueblo de las Vacchas tristes, First Take, etc...Switzerland. 1985-1989 Peter Wollbrandt and Jan Fride Wollbrandt (Kraan) Germany. Various bands and studio recordings. Switzerland, Jazz School St. Gallen CH. 1989-1990 Half Moon Cut USA Musicians Institute, Hollywood CA. 1990-1994 Hoochie Coo with David Glick and Johnny Angel Scaglione (Talas) USA, EGG with Dan Blanzly and Callum Benepe LAPD with Nucci Solazzo, Danny Merritt, Mark White and Steve De Marchi, Ant Bee with Mothers of Invention USA, etc... 1995-2017 Recordings, tours and concerts with Just Two, Saft, Elias Bernet, Nuuk, Freda Goodlett, Mr. Mmmh, Kalpana Rao, Birds of Paradise, Get Wet, Christine Lauterburg, Fundamental Groove Family, Gerhard Gabriel, Los Grecos, Saihou, Jimmy Skizzo, Gee K, Holiday Bluegrass Jam, Heloiza & Pau de Lei, Mizan, BBFrances, Wait & See, Donmax, members of Kraan, Overhead, Urs C. Eigenmann, Malcolm Green, Ceravolo Brothers, Reggie Saunders, Permanent Party, Cesar & Go West, Myron, Andy Egert, Dalls Hodge, Days of Yonder, Red Cube, off&out, The \$elfies, Phil Gates, Karl Frierson & Soulprint... US-Speaker for Head, Leica, DRS3, Radio Argovia...

www.marcrayoxendine.com



Andy Leumann (CH) drums

After his studies at the Swiss Jazzschool in Bern with Billie Brooks Andy starts his career as professional drummer 1978 at the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF. 1980 he meets for the first time the Pianist U.C. Eigenmann in his band off&out. With the bass player and singer Pino Buoro almost plays at the same time in the formations Infra Steff and Soul Set. All three meet each other for the first time in Eigenmann's Band Umamaca.

www.andyleumann.com