

Groove Combo

Der Name ist Programm: Rhythmus und Drive. Der Sound oft rauh, aber immer glasklar; die Stimme schnörkellos, direkt. Jazz'n'Blues: sentimental, melodiös, lebendig, übermütig. Spielfreude pur! Groove Combo steht für die perfekte Mischung von Melodie, Rhythmus und swingendem Groove!

The Quartet was formed in 2008 in Zurich and is well known in the Jazz Clubs all over Switzerland.

Four musicians with different musical backgrounds found together and started their project „groove combo“: the name is their programm.

The exciting singer Sarah Peng leads the audience through the world of Jazz standards and Blues songs with a voice that is simply touching. Along with the organist Elmar Kluth, one of Switzerland's best Bebop musicians, they bring up an unusual but exciting sound mixture. For their latest CD release they got nominated for the Swiss Jazz Award 2010.

Guitar player Rudolf Sprüngli plays both acoustic and jazz guitars. Every tune of him is a performance of heartfelt soulful blues. Marc Brazil, born in the United States, is an outstanding percussionist who brings the solid and swinging groove into the band.

Groove Combo stands for the perfect fusion of melody and rhythm and a good groove!

About the musicians

Sarah Peng, vocals

The roots of female singer Sarah Peng lie in the tradition of american song-writer tradition and english folk rock. Accompanying herself on guitar she played as a one-woman show songs in german language. In the eighties she got in contact with jazz and blues which opened her a new dimension of sound.

With simple and clear lines Sarah leads through the tunes, always keeping an eye on interpretation of the song contents. Her direct and bluesy voice along with a stunning rhythmical feeling is always touching. Reduced to maximum.

Elmar Kluth, organ and hi-hat

Elmar Kluth started his career as a Bebop piano player in Zurich. Soon he was accompanying many great swiss soloist and „travelling-through“ american jazz musicians. He formed his own band, the Zurich Jazz Trio.

Beside his work as a piano player he was always fascinated by the great british blues and rock organ players as Brian Auger, Rick Wakeman, Keith Emerson etc. Especially the combination of organ and voice was of his interest.

Because the high frequencies of a common drum kit suppress the crispy and crying sound of an organ, Elmar prefers to work with a percussionist. This combination enriched by a guitar guarantees a powerful, clear and transparent sound which fits perfectly to play Blues and Jazz.

Rudolf K.Sprüngli, guitar

As a kid Rudolf studied classical guitar. When the wave of British Blues and Rock music reached Switzerland he was immediately hooked. Due to his great ear he was able to play in different Swiss bands and he gave many musical inputs to the upcoming Swiss music scene. The more sophisticated Jazz from the USA was of great interest for Rudolf, too. Besides all that, Rudolf never forgot his classical background and learned to play other styles like Flamenco and Latin music. Although or maybe just because he is not a professional, Rudolf always plays with great feeling and is able to say a lot with a few notes.

Mark Brazil, percussion

Why become a percussionist? You like rhythms and sounds. Mark Brazil, born in San Francisco was taught by well-known percussionist Armando Peraza (Carlos Santana) and Bill Summers (Herbie Hancock). He toured with Jon Otis & the Boxx through out Europe and worked as studio musician. It's incredible how many different sounds Mark is able to bring out of a single conga. On stage he will play two of them. Therefore, it is not surprising that Mark became the most wanted percussionist in Switzerland.

Featuring

Tim Davies, blues harp, Kate Bass, vocals

Tim has played everything from Delta blues to pure jazz, taking in a little high octane rockabilly along the way. Kate's background was in singing early sacred music and folk, but Tim soon lured her into the world of jazz and blues with his haunting blues harp playing. Together they now head up the Quintet Loose Crew, playing some unusual jazz and blues-inspired swing-based repertoire. Originally from London, they both live now for more than twenty years on the Isle of Man in the Irish sea.

Additional notes

This gig's background:

In the nineties Elmar Kluth and Sarah Peng played a steady gig at the Riverside Studio in Laxey, Isle of Man. The ancient proprietor Peter Ellenberger, a baritone saxophone player and Jazz lover himself, invited our band for a two week gig in his restaurant - for nearly ten years. It was there where Tim Davies joined us with his brilliant blues harp on a jam - the start of an exciting musical and personal friendship began. Since over twenty years now we meet up and play together in Switzerland and on the Isle of Man.