

jazznl

Dutch Jazz Expedition Madrid

November 2011



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Introduction

Dutch Jazz Expeditions are organized by the JazzNL Foundation in collaboration with partner organizations in the hosting countries. The Dutch Jazz Expedition is conducted outside the Netherlands.

It consists of a few different items. First of all concerts by the Dutch jazz artists for an audience of both professionals as well as jazz lovers. In these concerts the artists get the chance to present themselves and their own work to the jazz professionals from the hosting country. In addition to that we encourage projects to be organized in which the Dutch artists can perform together with artists from other countries.

During the day a conference will be held which is organized by our partner in the hosting country. Its aim is to connect the Dutch network with that of the hosting country on all levels. The conference will hold discussions in different rooms on a variety of topics concerning the connection of both jazz networks. Topics may include items such as talent development, the economic value of jazz events or other relevant issues. There will also be speed dates arranged between the Dutch musicians and the local bookers for festivals, clubs etc, and a trade session for product export or licensing, publishing, sponsoring etc.

In November 2011 a Dutch Jazz Expedition was held in Madrid. Five Dutch jazz bands performed in Madrid during the XXVIII Festival De Jazz De Madrid. Alongside a delegation of Dutch jazz professionals travelled representing among others Buma Cultuur, Sena and North Sea Jazz.

Preparation

The first conversations about a possible Dutch Jazz Expedition were held at the end of 2010 between the JazzNL Foundation and the Fundacion Carlos de Amberes. This organization was founded 400 years ago and is dedicated to safekeeping the historical ties among the territories that once belonged to the Spanish Crown in the 16th and 17th Centuries. The Foundation cooperates via all sorts of cultural, political and scientific initiatives with those countries -Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and northern France- in the adventure of building a common space: a united Europe.

In May 2011 a delegation of Spanish cultural representatives and a Spanish jazz group visited the 'Gateway to Dutch Jazz' event in Amersfoort. They had various conversations with Dutch jazz professionals and musicians. The Spanish jazz group gave several concerts at this event.

In June 2011 another delegation and artists from Spain came to the Jazzdag. The Spanish artists performed and there were speeddates between the Spanish Jazz professionals and Dutch jazz artists who wanted to join the Dutch Jazz Expedition. Out of these artists the Spanish jazz professionals chose the groups who were going to Madrid to perform at the Dutch Jazz Expedition.

Artists

The following groups were selected to perform at the Dutch Jazz Expedition

Jasper Somsen Group

(Dreams, Thoughts and Poetry, The music of Enrico Pieranunzi)

Jasper Somsen is one of the foremost jazz bassist's in the Netherlands today. During his career Jasper has performed with the "crème de la crème" of the Dutch jazz scene including among others pianists Bert van den Brink (Boy Edgar Prize 2007) and Michiel Borstlap; drummer John Engels; saxophonist Ferdinand Povel; singer Rita Reys and trumpet player Eric Vloeimans.

His new band the "Jasper Somsen Group" released their first CD "Dreams, Thoughts and Poetry, the music of Enrico Pieranunzi" in November 2010 on Challenge Records. The CD launch concerts were sold out and the CD immediately received highly acclaimed reviews (including Pieranunzi himself). Enrico Pieranunzi stated in the CD's liner notes that "...each of my compositions has been treated with great imagination and feeling." "I humbly accept it (the CD) as a loving gift, but also as an incentive to keep trying to write music that touches the hearts..."

Rembrandt Frerichs Trio

"This guy sounds great!" was Michael Brecker's opinion of pianist and composer Rembrandt Frerichs. One couldn't hope for a better recommendation. Rembrandt is a pianist with a broad perspective. He is familiar with the American jazz tradition, but wants to avoid the well-trodden path. He is inspired by European classical music and his passion for Arabic music was developed during his two-year stay in Egypt.

The now 33-year-old artist played his music in legendary Jazz club Birdland in New York. In 2007 his debut album was immediately nominated for the Edison Awards.

At age 23 Rembrandt made his debut at the North Sea Jazz Festival. During that time he studied both in New York and Holland. Directly after graduating he was asked to start teaching at various conservatories in the Netherlands.

To express his imaginary and authentic vision on jazz, Rembrandt performs his music in the format of the piano trio with a reason: the jazz piano trio has been said at times to represent the essence of jazz in the most condensed yet effective way possible.

Listening to the Rembrandt Frerichs trio is a fascinating and compelling event brought to you by one of the leading young pianists on the European scene today.

Susanne Alt

Susanne was born 1978 into a musical household. Her father, Hans-Joachim Alt is a composer, poet and piano teacher. Her mother, Maria Alt, is a guitar teacher. After learning classical piano and guitar from her parents she started to play the saxophone in 1991. Soon she successfully took part in saxophone competitions. 1993-1995, still in school, she took classical saxophone lessons at the Meistersingerkonservatorium Nuremberg. 1995-96 she studied one year there as well, fulltime.

During that year Susanne began to develop her jazz skills. Also in 1996 she won the "Siemens-Jazz-Förderpreis" and moved to the Netherlands to study jazz saxophone at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam (in 1996 it was still called Hilversums Conservatorium, later fused with Amsterdam). She graduated in 2000 and continued her studies at the Hochschule der Künste Berlin. After graduating in Berlin, in 2003, she formed her band "Susanne Alt Quartet".

Since 1998 she has played a.o. with: Rosa King, Soulcatchers, Tribute 2 Bob Marley; BuJazzO, was a member of the Amsterdam Jazz Orchestra, played with Jamal Thomas Band, George Clinton, Fred Wesley & the new J.B.'s. Also she's been touring worldwide with house DJ's and producers as: Hardsoul Productions; Piglife, Roog, Ronald Molendijk, Marc van Dale and Erick E. Since a couple of years she has been performing with jazz dj's as well: Graham B, DJ Maestro, and Wicked Jazz Sounds.

Simin Tander

The music of German Afghan singer Simin Tander represents a new sound in the European jazz landscape: mysterious, narrative, tenderly beautiful, yet also strong, playful and very impulsive. Simin moves her audience with a fascinating voice that knows every possible color and expression and embodies it with an alluring intensity.

In her songs she blends jazz with singer songwriter elements and a hint of oriental mysticism into a style of her own. Floating from subtle ballads to challenging rhythms, from boundless improvisations to embracing melodies, leading into a world of emotion and contrasts. Beside using lyrics and improvising passionately, Simin also tells her stories through a very personal phantasy language.

In the Netherlands Simin Tander's talent is no longer a secret. Within the past two years Simin has quickly grown to one of Holland's most promising and acknowledged young jazz artists.

Beside Holland, Simin has been invited to several international stages, like the Women In Jazz Festival (Germany), JazzAhead!(Germany), Catania Jazz (Italy), Bohemia Jazz Fest (Czech Republic) and in autumn 2011 to the „International Hong Kong Jazz Festival“ (China).

Felix Schlarmann Group

Felix Schlarmann leads his Dutch group as a drummer and composer. His music is fragile and emotional - graceful melodies and energetic explosions create its contraire fundament. The interplay of two saxophones gets a key position in most of the arrangements and sets the sound of the band.

Influences can be found in the groups and compositions of drummer Brian Blade, saxophonist David Binney, Branford Marsalis or Brad Melhdau, but also in many more musical styles.

The quintet's personnel contains players of the upcoming generation of young Dutch Jazz musicians who can also be found in known projects through the country as Room Eleven, Pete Philly & Perquisite, the Wicked Jazz Sounds Band or the groups of Benjamin Herman or Hans Teeuwen. The FELIX SCHLARMANN GROUP exists since 2007 and played concerts, festivals like the 'North Sea Jazz Festival' and competitions in the Netherlands and other European countries. Featured guest artists were among others the Dutch saxophonist Jasper Blom.

Dutch delegation

Together with the artists a group of jazz professionals from The Netherlands came to Madrid. Their main interest was the conference which was held on Saturday at the Fundacion Carlos de Amberes. It consisted of the following people:

Frank Helmink (director of Buma Cultuur)

Ikaros van Duppen (project manager jazz of Buma Cultuur)

Koert Ligtermoet (chairman of the SENA – section performers)

Cees Schrama (advisor North Sea Jazz Festival)

Alexander Beets (representative of JazzNL, Jazzdag and International Jazz Festival Alliance Foundation)

Floor Visser (secretary of the Federation of Dutch Jazz Festivals)

Conference

On Saturday a conference was held for jazz professionals and artists from both Spain and the Netherlands. The conference consisted of a panel discussion and an informal network meeting. The topic for the discussion was 'How to finance jazzfestivals by creating value for others'

The North Sea Jazz Festival creates a value for the city of Rotterdam of 75 million euro. It is important to redefine the value of jazzfestivals. After a short introduction festival organisers and jazz officials from the Netherlands and Spain will discuss on this topic. How can value be' created, who are the stakeholders, how can it benefit the financial position of the festival. Also cooperation between festivals could will be discussed. Central themes are the improvement of quality in festivals, talent development, cultural exchange and possibilities and programs for showcases and networking.

Afterwards an informal network meeting was held at the Fundacion Carlos de Amberes. The artists had the possibility to interest the Spanish people for their projects. The atmosphere was very vivid and a lot of business was done. The Spanish jazz professionals who were present:

Gonzalo Rodríguez Checa (Círculo De Bellas Artes)

Fernando Rodriguez-Correa (Sierrajazz)

Pablo García Vega (Xenia Producciones)

Verónica Villoslada (Wei World Management)

Juanjo Y Silvia (Swing Madrid)

Carlos Calle (Manager)

Ismael (Universijazz)

Wulf Müller (All In Music Service)

Yolanda Chalmeta Cárdenas (All In Music Service)

Juan Jiménez (La Escalera De Jacob)

Pablo Hernández

José Luis Gutiérrez (Festival Universijazzuva, Festival La Granjajazz)

César Martín (Fundación Música Creativa)

Bárbara Bonastre (Fundación Música Creativa)

Oscar Gómez (Clazz Continental Latin Jazz Festival)

Javier Estrella (Festival De Jazz De Madrid)

Maurits Mulder (Fundación Carlos De Amberes)

Manuel Ferrand (Agencia Andaluza De Instituciones Culturales. Junta De Andalucía)

Dick Angstadt (Bogui Jazz Madrid)

Concert in Fundacion Carlos Amberes

On Friday the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio and Susanne Alt gave performances in the Fundacion Carlos Amberes. The venue was almost sold out. Several programmers, festival organizers and media were present.

Concert in Conde Duque Theater

On Saturday we had a 'triple bill' concert in a sold out Conde Duque Theater. A beautiful, brand new, venue which has a capacity of about 400 people. Here the Jasper Somsen Trio, Simin Tander and the Felix Schlarmann Group performed. Although it was a pretty long concert, 2 hours with no break, everybody paid attention until the last note.

Media

Although most attention during the festival went to the big names such as Joshua Redman, Madeleine Peyroux and Lizz Wright, the Dutch artists were also mentioned many times both online as well as in brochures, magazines and newspapers.