

Sebastian Gahler Trio – Press text 2012

The Sebastian Gahler Trio stands for modern trio jazz, with all pieces composed by the band leader Sebastian Gahler. Singable, simple melodies play over all the pieces, almost allowing the listener to forget their complex harmonies and highly varied and, to some extent, extremely complicated, rhythms. The pieces have a lyrical feel, some are almost melancholy, and all are illuminated by Gahler's highly individual piano style.

The trio occasionally works with guest soloists, for example the jazz saxophonists Wolfgang Engstfeld, Gerd Dudek and Claudius Valk, or the jazz singer Inga Lühning. The Sebastian Gahler Trio has already made a name for itself performing at various festivals including the Düsseldorf Jazz Rally, the Burghausen International Jazz Week, Palatia Jazz and the Viersen Jazz Festival. In 2009 the Trio toured for a week in Bosnia at the invitation of the German Embassy 2009. This was followed by an appearance in Spain in autumn 2009.

According to the respected specialist magazine "Jazz thing", the Sebastian Gahler Trio is already a rising star in the German jazz firmament. Gahler's debut album "Meditation" will appear in the "Jazz thing Next Generation" (Double Moon) series in 2009 – an accolade in the jazz scene and an honor which is only accorded to four German newcomers each year. John Taylor, the internationally celebrated jazz pianist (who has played with Kenny Wheeler, Jan Gabarek, Gil Evans, Peter Erskine) and was Gahler's former teacher at the Cologne College of Music, has nothing but praise for "Meditation": "This is a skilful and impressive debut." One thing is certain – we'll be hearing plenty more from the Sebastian Gahler Trio.

The musicians

Sebastian Gahler (*1978), **Piano**, discovered his love of jazz during his time at a high school in Wadena, Minnesota, where he took piano lessons with various teachers and garnered his first big band experience. Back in Dusseldorf he first took private lessons with the jazz pianist Buddy Casino (Helge Schneider) and then studied jazz piano with Robert-Jan Vermeulen at the ArtEZ Institute of the Arts in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Afterwards Gahler completed a one-year course of study in sound engineering at the Robert Schumann University of Music in Dusseldorf. From 2001 to 2007 he studied jazz piano (IE and AE) at the Cologne University of Music with Hans Lüdemann, Hubert Nuss and John Taylor, graduating as a fully qualified jazz pianist. Gahler has attended numerous workshops and master classes, including those held by Barry Harris, Julian Joseph, Adam Nussbaum and Jacky Terrasson. During a workshop held by the Berklee School of Music in Germany, he received a 5,000 dollar scholarship for the renowned Boston College of Music.

In mid 2008 Gahler took a creative break and returned to the USA, where his love for jazz had been awakened 13 years before. While there, he also spent time in Minnesota, Florida and New York and his collected impressions are reflected in his latest compositions.

Sebastian Gahler won the City of Düsseldorf's 2011 Award in the category Music.

Nico Brandenburg (*1970), **Double Bass**,

studied electric bass at the Institute of the Arts in Arnhem (NL), following this with double bass studies at the Folkwang University Essen under John Goldsby (WDR Big Band). Since 1999 Nico Brandenburg has worked as a freelance musician playing a variety of styles.

For six years he played bass with the internationally renowned flamenco guitarist Rafael Cortés, with whom he performed at many jazz festivals, numerous concerts and several radio and TV recordings.

He has been the bass player with the big band of jazz singer Tom Gaebel since 2008.

Since 2010 he has lectured on electric and double bass at the Robert Schumann University's Institute for Music and Media in Düsseldorf.

In 2011 he toured Germany (incl. DVD production) with Eurovision Song Contest winner, Lena Meyer-Landrut. Other collaborations include work with the WDR Big Band, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, the music quiz "Hast Du Töne" on Vox TV (72 shows), and various CD productions.

René Marx (*1972), Drums,

His role models range from Gene Krupa through Elvin Jones to Paul Motian. Marx studied under Keith Copeland and Michael Küttner at Mannheim University of Music. He has performed concerts or recorded with Reiner Witzel, Olaf Polziehn, Jürgen Seefelder, The Swingvergnügen, Hazy Osterwald, Marty Grosz, Engelbert Wrobel's Swing Society, Echoes of Swing, Wolfgang Engstfeld, Gary Fuhrmann Quintett, Indigo Jazzlounge, Art of the Message and many others.

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