

Maxime Bender “UNIVERSAL SKY”

Maxime Bender - Saxophones

Manu Codjia - Guitare

Jean-Yves Jung - Organ

Jérôme Klein - Drums



The universe has no boundaries, no limitations. We all live under the same sky, and we are connected through so many things, one of them being music. Music brings people together, people from all over the world, whatever language they may speak, through music, everyone can communicate with each other.

Maxime Bender's new project, "Universal Sky", with Manu Codjia on guitar, Jean-Yves Jung on organ and Jérôme Klein on drums, is a French-Luxembourgish mix. This project is all about eliminating boundaries and using music to share emotions. The four members of this band are all enjoying successful careers performing as leaders and sidemen of a variety of projects, and they hereby bring together a vast pool of experience and talent on a single stage.

Biographies

★ Maxime Bender - saxophones



Born in 1982, Maxime Bender is a composer/multi-instrumentalist: tenor saxophone, soprano, and alto, flute and piano.

→ Studies:

Musikhochschule Köln, graduated in Jazz saxophone & Jazz composition/arrangement with Wolfgang Engstfeld, Frank Reinshagen a.o.. Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles with Steve Houben, Jean Louis Rassinfosse a.o.. Conservatoire National de Région in Strasbourg & CEDIM in Strasbourg with Roby Glod, Philippe Aubry, Michael Alizon, Bernard Struber a.o.. Conservatoire de Luxembourg with Roby Glod, Erwin Vann a.o..

→ References:

DeeDee Bridgewater, Nigel Kennedy, Donny McCaslin, Lalo Shifrin, George Duke, David Binney, Will Vinson, Philipp van Endert, Pablo Held, Jonas Burgwinkel.

→ Awards:

Elie Music Award in 2007 / Nomination for the Eurodango in 2007 in the category “young talent” / awards for composition at the Tremplin Jazz d’Avignon in 2008 / 3rd European Jazz prize in Burghausen.

★ Manu Codjia - guitar

Manu Codjia was born in 1975 in Chaumont. He studied at the Conservatoire de Paris with François Jeanneau, Jean-François Jenny-Clark, Hervé Sellin, Daniel Humair and François Théberge. Through his studies he formed friendships with the musicians Christophe Monniot, Matthieu Donarier, Gueorgui Kornazov, Johan Renard, Thomas Grimmonprez, Joe Quitzke, Linley Marthe, Emil Spanyi and Jérôme Rateau.

He won the premier prix de soliste of the “Concours de Jazz de la Défense” in 1999 and some band prizes with the Mathieu Donarier Trio, Spice Bones, Gueorgui Kornazov 5tet in 1999, DrKnock and Alerta G in 2001. He was/is a member of the following bands: Daniel Humair, ONJ in 2000, Erik Truffaz, Henri Texier and Elisabeth Kontomanou (2006-07). He has played in the US, Europe, South Africa and Mexico (a.o.) and has performed with Louis Sclavis, Pat Metheny, Michel Portal, Aldo Romano, Tony Malaby, Anthony Cox, Marc Ducret, David Linx, Bruno Chevillon, and many more. He has released “Songlines” with Daniel Humair and François Moutin and he was the winner of the Django d’or in 2007. He was also nominated for the “victoire du jazz”.



★ Jean-Yves Jung - organ



Jean-Yves Jung is easily one of France's most well-renowned organists. When Jung is not touring with the Organic Trio, he holds down the Hammond chair with guitar phenom Bireli Lagrene's Quartet. Jung's organ skills and compositions are extensively featured on Lagrene's latest Verve release, *Mouvements*. Jung's organ playing can be nimble and acrobatic, funky and futuristic, soulful and searching. He emanates a tremendous joy from the stage whenever he plays, and the challenges of his compositions are juxtaposed by his playful sense of melody and rhythm. Along with the Organic Trio and Bireli Lagrene, Jean-Yves has had the opportunity to

record and tour with many musical greats, including Billy Cobham, Philip Catherine, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Andre Ceccarelli, The Paris Jazz Big Band, Jimmy Woode and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg. Jung is a lecturer at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz School of Music.

★ Jérôme Klein - drums

Born in Luxembourg, Jerome's steps in the world of music began at the age of 6. He began first with the classical piano, followed by classical percussion at the Conservatory of Luxembourg.

After finishing his classical training, he got more and more interested in Jazz and improvised music, and began focusing on Jazz vibraphone and drums. After several years at the Conservatory of Luxembourg, he entered the Jazz-section of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels where he got his Bachelor in vibes, drums and piano. He then got his Master's Degree in Jazz-Drums at the Koninklijk Conservatorium of Brussels. He also had the opportunity to follow classes by John Riley, Dick Oatts, Luis Bonilla and Justin DiCiocco from the Manhattan School of Music.



Some current projects: Paradigm Junction, APFELBAUM, Pol Belardi Quintet, Lift, Octet Red, Cruz Control, François-b, Pol Belardi's Force, Arthur Links Quintet, Guillaume Vierset Quartet, Taly Toké, etc...