

Half Easy Trio



“...a proof that the expression of jazz trios is far from exhausted...”

Jan Hocek, JazzPort (CZ)

Half Easy Trio is an international contemporary jazz band which was formed in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in 2018. All compositions are written by Martin Hafizi and organically combine styles such as classical music, Bulgarian folklore music and many different subgenres of jazz. Each performance of the band turns into a sonic exploration journey as well as a deep search of rich textures, beauty, energy, power and drama.

“...the trio requires full attention and dedication to the music that rejects any kind of superficiality.” Tom Beetz (Jazzflits)

In October 2019 the band released their well-received debut album “Dark is Bright” under the label “Optomusic” (NL) and presented it at some of the finest Dutch venues such as Bimhuis, De Doelen, Tivoli Vredenburg and Paradox among others. In May 2023 the band is going to release their second record “One Step Back, Two Steps Forward” featuring the Ukrainian singer Tamara Lukasheva. The album is a collection of material written during the pandemic.

Half Easy Trio has been touring The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Bulgaria, it is a winner of the prestigious competition “Keep an Eye: The Records” (NL) and a grant recipient from the “Droom en Daad” Foundation.

Franz von Chossy (Germany) - Piano

Franz studied at the Conservatory of Amsterdam with Karel Bohlee and Rob van Bavel. Then he moved to New York to study at the Manhattan School of Music where he was taught by Kenny Barron, Dave Liebman, Kenny Werner, among others. He has performed throughout Europe and the US as well as in Asia (China, India, Japan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey) and Africa (Tunisia, Morocco), Australia. Besides touring all around the world with his own trio, he has also been active with other well-known bands such as the Pascal Schumacher Quartet, Arifa, Alex Simu Quintet, etc.

- **1st prize and “Best Soloist” at the “Dutch Jazz Competition”**
- **2nd prize at the Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition”**



Johannes Fend (Austria) - Double bass

Johannes obtained his double Bachelor’s degree in the jazz and the classical department of the Prince Claus Conservatory, Groningen. In 2018 he finished his Master’s degree in Codarts University of the Arts, Rotterdam. He is a very active musician and part of various bands such as Leonardo Prieto Ensemble, The Impact, Neon and the Deons, etc. During his studies, Johannes had the chance to get to study and play with musicians out of the New York jazz scene such as David Berkman, Paul Berner, Matt Wilson, Todd Coolman, Alex Sipiagin and many more.

- **1st prize at the “Leiden Jazz Award”**
- **“Best Soloist” at the “Erasmus Jazz Prize”**



Martin Hafizi (Bulgaria) - Drums

Martin studied jazz drums in Codarts University of the Arts, Rotterdam, and obtained his Bachelor’s degree in 2016. Two years later he graduated from the pop department of Codarts with a Master’s degree. Martin performs actively around Europe and Asia as he played festivals such as A to JazZ Festival (Bulgaria), Taichung Jazz Festival (Taiwan) and Urbano Dejanje (Slovenia). He has been fortunate to perform together with world - renowned musicians such as Billy Harper, Tineke Postma, Niti Ranjan Biswas, Georg Breinschmid, Dimitar Bodurov, among others.

- **Grand Prize at the “International Contest Galaxy of Talents”**
- **3rd prize and the prize of the audience at the “IPCL”**



feat. Tamara Lukasheva (Ukraine) - Voice



"Tamara Lukasheva is one of the outstanding singers of the young German jazz scene. With her emotional, technically brilliant and sublime singing, she represents a current freedom in jazz."

Reinhard Köchl (Jazzthing)

Between 2003 and 2007 Tamara studied at the conservatory in Odessa, Ukraine. Then in 2015 she obtained her Bachelor's degree at the University of Music and Dance in Cologne and in 2019 - her Master's degree from the same university. Already during her studies in Cologne she founded her quartet. Besides being actively performing with it, she also takes part in many other collaborations: with Marie Theres Hartel and DeeLinde she forms the string trio "Kusimanten". As a singer she cooperates with Vadim Neselovskyi, Hans Lüdemann, Arkady Shilkloper, Bodek Jahnke, Sebastian Gramss, Jens Düppe, Dominik Mahnig, Johannes Weber, Malte Viebahn, Antoine Duijkers and other important musicians of the European jazz scene.

- 2nd prize at "Keep an Eye Jazz Award"
- WDR Jazz Prize - Composition

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