

# "FUMMQ"

## FERENC & MAGNUS MEHL QUARTET



**Magnus Mehl:**

Altsax /  
Sopransax

**Ferenc Mehl:**

drums

**Martin Schulte:**

git

**Fedor Ruskuc:**

bass

This formation around the brothers Magnus and Ferenc Mehl has dedicated themselves to modern, unaltered Jazz. Their fresh and intense band concept includes not only original new compositions, but also deep and emotional ballads. In their music these four show no fear and hesitation to dig deep into the history of Jazz; and yet, they never lose their personal and explosive style, giving their music both energy and soul.

The Ferenc and Magnus Mehl Quartet consists of musicians who had been selected and supported by the National German Youth Jazz Orchestra and various State Youth Jazz Orchestras. All of them have made a name and achieved success in multiple previous formations and groups.

Multiple times did the band tour through the clubs of the German jazz scene, and play at established international festivals. For example: "VS-swingt", the Ibiza Jazz Festival, the Novi Sad Jazz Festival, the Pancevo Jazz Festival, or in Kopenhagen, by invitation of the German embassy. Moreover, the ensemble was invited by the Goethe Institute to tour Serbia and the Kosovo several times .

Their harmony on and off the stage, and their captivating, energetic solo performances excite crowds over and over again. The fresh and unconventional style of the Ferenc and Magnus Mehl Quartet in addition to their charismatic and unforced appearance makes it impossible to escape the magic of their music.

## Prizes:

- Magnus Mehl was awarded with the renowned "Jazzpreis des Landes Baden-Württemberg".
- first place at the Jimmy Woode Jazz Award (Italy). A jury around piano player Kenny Baron also awarded the band with three additional prizes for outstanding individual musicianship.
- first place at the Getxo Jazz Festival (Magnus Mehl) , a European wide jazz competition.
- second at the 28th International Hoilaart Jazz Competition
- finalist at the European Yamaha Sax Contest.

## MUSICIANS

### Magnus Mehl (sax)

Magnus Mehl studied Jazzsaxophon in Amsterdam, Köln, Nürnberg and Stuttgart. In addition to that he lived and studied in New York City on a full scholarship of the DAAD (German federal exchange service). He graduated summa cum laude.

Over the years Magnus Mehl has played in the youth Jazzorchestras of the German states Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia. Furthermore, he was a member of the German national youth Jazzorchestra lead by Peter Herbolzheimer. With various bands and ensembles he won 1st prizes at renowned international Jazzawards in Spain and Italy (int. Getxo Jazzcontest, int. Jimmy Woode Award), and a 2nd price at the int. Hoilaart Jazzcontest in Belgium.

Magnus Mehl was a finalist of the int. Yamaha saxophone competition and was awarded the price "best saxophone player of the competition" at the int. Jimmy Woode Award.

Concert tours led him to Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia), Middle America (Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Costa Rica) and to many European countries (Spain, Serbia, Italy etc.).

In cooperation with „Goethe Institut“, Magnus Mehl performed at jazz festivals abroad and worked as a lecturer at jazz workshops.

He is holding the cultural price of his hometown Rottweil ("Kulturförderpreis") and a scholarship of the "Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg" (Fine Arts Foundation of the German state Baden-Württemberg).

In 2015 Magnus was awarded with the renowned "Jazzpreis des Landes Baden-Württemberg".

Magnus Mehl had the pleasure to perform with Paquito de Riviera, Randy Brecker, Buster Cooper, Antonio Hart, Sandy Patton, Mark Soskin, Klaus Graf, Jake Saslow, Nils Wogram, the german actress Katja Riemann, Frank Chastenier etc.

### Ferenc Mehl (dr)

Born in southwestern Germany, Ferenc is a genuine Rottweiler. At the age of 8, after one year of guitar lessons he was finally allowed to learn, how to play the drums. He started out at the local music school in Rottweil and pretty soon had private lessons with Philippe Ohl (drumset and classical snare drum).

After graduating from a high school, with a special music branch, Ferenc began to study Jazzdrums at the Conservatory of Leipzig ("Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig"). In addition to that he attended the "Conservatory of Amsterdam". Ferenc graduated with "Diploma" in 2010.

Over the years he played in the Youth Jazzorchestras of the German states Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Saxony and in the German national Youth Jazzorchestra ("Bundes Jazzorchester").

Ferenc released two CDs under his own name and won the international Jimmy Woode Jazzaward in Italy with his band "FUMMQ" (Ferenc and Magnus Mehl Quartet). He has performed at "Schauspielhaus Leipzig" and played in various countries like China, Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, Malaysia, Austria, Spain, Serbia, Kosovo, Taiwan and Thailand.

Right now, Ferenc is performing in music theater plays at theaters in Halle/Saale and Heilbronn, he is performing with his Jazzquartet "FUMMQ" throughout Germany and he appears with the "Leipziger Auto Symphonikern" as well as with the Electro-Club band "Feinripp".

Furthermore, he is currently holding a scholarship of "Yehudi Menuhin –Live Music Now".

## **Martin Schulte (git)**

Born in Duisburg, Martin Schulte has quickly become an important part of the dynamic Cologne jazz scene. His much appreciated presence comes from his ability to be free with musical style, his deep feel for improvisation and his dexterity in moving between tension, intensity and relaxation. Forming his own musical style gained important impetus not only through his study of jazz guitar at the Hochschule fuer Musik und Tanz in Cologne, but also from lessons by international jazz celebrities such as John Abercrombie, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Hiram Bullock, Wayne Krantz, Peter Berstein and Ben Monder.

In 2003 Martin Schulte spent 12 months at the Escola de Musica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, on the ERASMUS scholarship programme. Starting in summer 2009 his next year abroad was studying "Performing Arts" in Queens College at the New York City University with the support of a scholarship from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

Schulte worked with Nils Wogram, Frank Möbus, John Ruocco, Hinrich Franck, Xaver Fischer, Claudius Valk, Nils Klein, Cologne Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, Wednesday Night Big Band, Grand Central Big Band, Blue Art Orchestra uva. He performed at international festivals like "Jazz an der Donau", "Leverkusener Jazztage", "Ibiza Jazz Festival", "Novisad Jazz Festival" (Serbien).

## **Fedor Ruskuc (bass)**

After studying violin for 9 years (since he was 6), he switched to double bass at the age of 15 . He finished his classical music high-school in 1999.

He switched his focus on jazz and started his studies in Graz with Prof. Wayne Darling . After getting an "excellent" on his Diploma in Graz he moved to Cologne to continue his studies with Prof. Dieter Manderscheid in 2002 . He graduated in 2005 .

In 1996 he won the Serbian National Music Competition , Double Bass classical solo and was 2nd at the Yugoslavian National Music Competition . In 1998 Fedor repeated his success at these competitions . With the "Magnus Mehl Quintet" he won the "Getxo Jazz Competition 2006" in Spain and was 2nd at the "Jazz Hoeilaart Competition" in Belgium . In 2008 "Magnus Mehl Quartet" won the "Jimmy Woode Award 2008" in Italy where Fedor was rewarded with the "Best Bass Player" award . With a world music band "East Affair" he also won the "Creole NRW 2008" in Germany .

He is a council member of the "Novosadski Jazz Festival" witch has a 10 year tradition in his home town of Novi Sad .

Fedor had performances all over Europe and Russia with many different groups and musicians including Keith Copeland , Dennis Rowland , Ondrej Stveracek , Andrew Krasilnikov , Douglas Sides , Ryan Carniaux , East Affair , Magnus Mehl , Adam Klemm , Vert , East West European Jazz Orchestra TWINS 2010 , Wednesday Night Big Band , Fantasmofonika and many more . He has also performed in a few musicals and theater plays in Germany , Austria and Serbia .