

Artists 2018

Eduardo Mendonça – Brazil

Eduardo is a guitarist, percussionist, singer and composer born in Salvador, in the Brazilian state of Bahia—the first home of samba. He moved to Seattle, in the United States, in 1994, and formed part of the percussion ensemble Bakra Bata. Since then, he has been teaching and promoting Brazilian culture through numerous local schools and organisations, and on big global stages. He has played for such figures as Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Pope John Paul II, and collaborated with the Seattle Symphony. Eduardo is also the director of Show Brazil!, an international performance ensemble and production company that he co-founded. He has received multiple awards for his talents as a musician and his work as an educator.

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Web: www.showbrazil.com/eduardo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/brazilianmusician

Twitter: @eduardomendonca

Dave Feusi and the Groove Gang – Switzerland

Born out of a bubbling jam-band scene almost twenty years ago, and led by the saxophonist Dave Feusi, this band puts the groove above all else. Playing original numbers as well as choice classics from the likes of Eddie Harris, Grover Washington Jr, Tania Maria and Stevie Wonder, the band puts its faith in tight jazz, soul and funk tunes laced with cut-loose solos, occasional electronic FX and plenty of spontaneity and virtuosity. Common side-effects include dancing. Welcome to the party.

Dave Feusi – Saxes and vocals

Tim Kleinert – Keys

Oliver Keller – Guitar

Thomas Reinecke – Bass

Christian Niederer – Drums

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Web: www.thegroovegang.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/The-Groove-Gang

Cynthia Abraham – France

Born into a family of musicians, Cynthia started out studying classical flute and piano but quickly discovered her passion for singing jazz. Having broadened her repertoire to include everything from gospel and soul to Latin, Brazilian and Caribbean music, and still in her mid-twenties, today she stands as one of the most exciting talents on the European jazz scene. In 2018, she won first prize in the Unisa International Jazz Voice Competition in South Africa. While performing prolifically alongside numerous prominent artists and ensembles, Cynthia has also ventured into composition. “Petites voix,” her debut album of original compositions, was released in 2015.

Cynthia Abraham – Vocals

Matthis Pascaud – Guitar

Bruno Schorp – Bass

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Web: www.cynthiabraham.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cynthiaabrahamofficiel

Instagram: @cynthia_abraham_

Adrien Brandeis Quintet – France

Adrien started his career in 2010 with the guitarist Guy Zenouda, following years of study with leading musicians and teachers. The young, award-winning pianist is highly versatile and open-minded, steeped in jazz, Latin and Afro-Caribbean music and always striving to combine tradition and modernity. Adrien's quintet, created in 2015, showcases his diverse influences through colourful original compositions. He produced his first

album, “Euforia,” in 2017.

Adrien Brandeis – Piano

Joachim Poutaraud – Alto and tenor sax

Guillaume Leclerc – Bass

Philippe Ciminato – Percussion

Félix Joveniaux – Drums

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Web: www.adrienbrandeis.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/adrienbrandeismusic

Instagram: @adrienbrandeis

DACH – Austria

DACH’s music has been described as modern creative, but the group draws equally on jazz, rock, free improvisation and minimalism to create its unparalleled sound. Bringing together musicians from Vienna, Berlin, Basel and Frankfurt, DACH is especially interested in pushing the bounds of improvisation and individual interpretation to produce a distinctive and highly innovative style. The ensemble is led by the adventurous pianist David Six, whose own influences and interests span Western and Eastern classical music, jazz and Austrian folk. On stage, he focuses mainly on providing space for the appearance of the “sacred element” in music, acting as a pathway to that place from where music flows on its own.

David Six – Piano

Andrej Prozorov – Sax

Ilya Alabuzhev – Bass

Mathias Ruppig – Drums

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Web: www.davidsix.com/dach

Facebook: www.facebook.com/davidsixmusic

Instagram: @davidsixmusic

Nick’s Cousins – USA

Springing from the vibrant music scene in Minnesota, Nick’s Cousins stands at the intersection of jazz and rock, where experimental harmonies meet blazing-fast, odd meters. Matty Harris plays more woodwinds than most people can name, and a portion of the band’s repertoire consists of raw, stripped-down versions of compositions from his avant-garde 2016 release, *Matty Harris Double Septet*. Eric Carranza’s chameleonic guitar-playing has taken him everywhere from touring with the futurepop outfit Har Di Har to playing in an intimate duo with the tabla player Suwal Singh. Kismat Shrestha, who moonlights as the drummer for the internationally touring Nepalese rock band Albatross, has the impeccable rhythm to keep the ensemble from careening off the rails. Rocky Schulze honed his mastery of the bass guitar while a member of the mathmetal band Children of Euler.

Matty Harris – Sax

Eric Carranza – Guitar

Kismat Shrestha – Drums

Rocky Schulze – Bass

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/nickscousins

Abhisek and Maria – Spain / Nepal

Maria Fajardo and Abhisek Bhadra met in Kathmandu, brought together by their love of improvisation.

Abhisek’s musical journey has taken in Nepal and much of Europe, while Maria’s journey has spanned Spain and many other European nations, Central America and the United States. Through the past year, they have

forged a sound that stands on the fertile common ground between their individual backgrounds and talents. The harvest is a repertoire of original compositions and modern standards presented with great spontaneity and intimacy, with nods to electronic, pop and rock music, and with improvisation as a common language.

Maria Fajardo – Vocals

Abhisek Bhadra – Keys

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Instagram: @mariafajardo

Nepali Artists

Project Sarangi Orchestra – Nepal

The Project Sarangi Orchestra brings together young musicians looking to breathe new life into Nepal's long and rich sarangi tradition. Combining melody-based Nepali folk music with Western concepts of harmony, and playing beloved old tunes as well as new and original compositions, the project is a one-of-a-kind experiment that is evolving a sound entirely of its own.

Manice Gandarba, Niraj Ragmi, Sohil Maharjan, Anjan Maharjan, Kiran Neupane, Sushant Shrestha, Rohit Maharjan, Sujina Bajracharya, Munindra J Rajopadhyay, Prince Nepali

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ProjectSarangi

Rabin Lal Shrestha Duo – Nepal

The tabla player Rabin Lal Shrestha is a leading figure of classical music in Nepal, and one of the country's most respected and renowned musical performers, recording artists and educators. He has recorded multiple albums and received numerous prestigious musical awards. Shrestha taught music in the royal palace for over two decades, and has lectured and headed his own department at the Fine Arts Campus of Tribhuvan University. He has toured in Europe, and also serves as an associate music lecturer at the University of Agder in Norway.

Rabin Lal Shrestha – Tabla

Jeevan Ale - Flute

Manmohan Thapaliya Sharma – Nepal

After early training from his mother and brother, the vocalist Manmohan Thapaliya Sharma studied formally under Ustaaad Maqbul Hussain Khan, the famed sarangi player of the Rampur Sahaswan gharana. He went on to study with numerous other masters, including Ustaaad Amir Khan of the Kirana Indore gharana and Pandit Amit Mukherjee. In 2002, he received the Sangeet Prabhakar from Prayag Sangeet Samiti in Allahabad. He has performed across Nepal and India, and has recorded two albums, *Kahile Gham Kahile Chaya* and *Shanti Sutra*.

Dhan Bahadur Gurung – Nepal

Dhan Bahadur Gurung began his training in the flute at the Kalanidhi Music School—the same school where he is a teacher today. He has honed his skill in a workshop with the legendary Ustaaad Hariprasad Chaurasia, and was selected the best flautist in the Shastriya Sangeet Samiti competition in 2008.