

JUST JAZZ

INTERNATIONAL
SINCE 1960

EUROPEAN ROSTER 2020/21



PAT APPLETON voc., (Germany/Liberia)

<https://pat-appleton.com>

Soul, Pop, Lounge, Jazz singing and songwriter. Pat Appleton known as the voice of legendary sound collective, multiple selling act "De -Phazz"- touring the world extensively since 1998. Also supplying this group with lyrics and lead vocals to this day. Labeled "one of the most important new voices of contemporary German Jazz" (3Sat) and Germany's leading women's magazine Brigitte says: "Pat Appleton sings like a goddess; purring, enticing, wonderful." Pat Appleton also performs with her own band, or as duo with Matti Klein. She released three solo albums, guesting multiple times with different musicians, such as the Nighthawks, Jazzkantine, Naoki Kenji, Airmate, Sinan Mercken and The Bahama Soul Club – plus nine albums with De-Phazz. With "The Mambo Craze" Pat and De-Phazz finally reached international acclaim. Received two German Echo nominations and entered the Top Ten German charts with the album "Daily Lama". The album "Death by Chocolate" remained in the Jazz charts for countless weeks.

<https://youtu.be/RNjDFX02vwU>
<https://youtu.be/kmANFbGYk3A>



CAMILLE BERTAULT voc., (France)

<https://camillebertault.fr>

French singer, songwriter and actress: Camille Bertault is THE shooting star on the international "Jazz and beyond"- scene - especially after she caused a social media - hype with her incredible scatting to "Giant Steps". With regular performances in the US, Brasil and Europe moving her career fast! Mademoiselle Bertault is Europe's new darling with deep jazz roots - no box is big enough for her to be put in. A crazy combination of an excellent „scary“ unique scatting with a wild mix of a Björk or Nina Hagen and smoothness of Bebel Gilberto!

<https://youtu.be/bGulNATaQlg> - song from her new album/only audio
<https://youtu.be/IS7Kp3-rL3c>
<https://youtu.be/hspFL6cPGfI> - Giant Steps
<https://youtu.be/IS7Kp3-rL3c>



MATT BIANCO (UK)

<https://mattbianco.com>

Matt Bianco – means many Gold- and Platinum-Awards. Who does not know their numerous hits „Get Out Of Your Lazy Bed“ or "Half A Minute" and many many more. Worldwide sold-out concerts, as well as a very successful career for more than 20 years. Matt Bianco (which is a fictional name) is led by singer and co-founder Mark Reilly, still going strong with album releases, a great live show and dancing audiences around the globe with their unique mix of Latin, Jazz and Wave music.

<https://youtu.be/peANFWZnF0>
<https://youtu.be/AuZR07DY5ss>
<https://youtu.be/07kijzLcKoA>



TILL BRÖNNER tp., flh., (Germany) & Band * not D/A

<https://tillbroenner.de>

Two time Grammy nominee Till Brönner, is the most famous German Jazz musician and nation's biggest-selling jazz artist of all time! Hailed as the "German Chet Baker", jazz trumpeter and flugelhorn artist, crooner, composer, TV and Radio host and photographer Till Brönner has been lending his unique, contemporary air to bebop for over twenty years. Embracing an ongoing musical path that has led him all the way from bop through to smooth ballads, multi-genre flourishes, and an ever-increasing minimalism and refinement, Brönner has become the best-selling German jazz artist in his countries history since his debut release in the early 1990's. He is - undisputed - one of the worlds top jazz horn players and is known for his distinctive sound. Album release Till Brönner & Bob James „on vacation" October 30th 2020

<https://youtu.be/GZasgJfzrA>
<https://youtu.be/g-iPS2QHdMw>
<https://youtu.be/G3VAO4NFaw4>



IGOR BUTMAN ts., (Russia)

<https://igorbutman.com/en#>

World famous saxophonist, bandleader and producer Igor Butman is considered one of Russia's most well known and respected international Jazz musicians. Butman has released over 10 albums both as a leader and co-leader, including the "Magic Land" (Sony Classic) with Chick Corea, Jack DeJohnette, John Patitucci, Stefan Harris and Randy Brecker, becoming Gold in Russia and bestseller in the United States and Germany. "One of the best tenor saxophonists in the world!" – The Daily News "Mr. Butman is a steamroller of a saxophonist!" – The New York Times An Olympic Ambassador and a top advocate of Russian art in the world, Butman leads the Moscow Jazz Orchestra and the Igor Butman Quintet.

<https://igorbutman.com/en/Video/Item/11>



FAY CLAASSEN voc., (Netherlands)

<https://www.fayclaassen.com>

Fay Claassen, is Holland's most famous and jazz singer and one of the best in Europe. Granted with a lot of international music awards (Edison Award, Chet Baker Award, Choc, and Nr 1 in the "All About Jazz"-Critics Poll) , she is a frequent guest of the most renowned Big Bands and Orchestras (Metropole Orchestra, Danish Radio Big Band, WDR Big Band, Brussels Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw and many more). "Fay Claassen is to singing what Audrey Hepburn was to the movies: elegant and graceful." (Cadence, US Music Magazine). She has the special gift of creating the definitive version of every song she sings and she always hits straight to the heart singing with sophistication, with taste and sensitivity. The list of musicians Fay Claassen has worked with, is like the "Who's Who" of jazz: Toots Thielemans, Mike Stern, Bob Brookmeyer, Vince Mendoza, Paquito D'Rivera, Tom Harrell, James Carter and many more.

https://youtu.be/_ZuhEFNLH8k
https://youtu.be/9FyL_10QNOv8
<https://youtu.be/sEi0Xciqv8>



DE-PHAZZ (Germany) * not D/A

<https://dephazz.com>

DePhazz definitely ranks up there as the most innovative European „chillout“, „electro lounge“ NuJazz group! The prolific and long-running act is a contemporary project led by the diligent sound collector and sample architect Pit Baumgartner, the „Godfathers of Lounge“. He is a German-Austrian producer who has surrounded himself with a shifting cast of collaborators that includes vocalists Karl Frierson, and Pat Appleton. Baumgartner and company have explored various forms of Jazz and lounge music, integrating modern turntablism, with elements of Latin, Trip Hop, Deep and Boss. De-Phazz tracks like "No Jive" and "The Mambo Craze" have appeared on dozens of compilations with "lounge," "chill," and "café" in the title. Though much of the De-Phazz catalog could be termed studio creations, it also contains collaborative, acoustic, and live projects such as Big (recorded with Radio Bigband Frankfurt, 2009), Naive (2013), and Private (2016). No stranger to outside work, Baumgartner remixed Ella Fitzgerald's "Wait 'til You See Him" for the first Verve Remastered compilation, as well as tracks by the likes of Kool & the Gang, a-ha, and Blank & Jones. De-Phazz exists for over 20 years after the lounge revolution, it has never been one of those DJ projects where a producer chooses varying and exchangeable musicians for the studio. Thanks to the exceptional performance of Pat Appleton and Karl Frierson, as well as outstanding soloists like trombonist Otto Engelhardt or Marcus Bartelt, De-Phazz still amazes their crowds world wide on big live stages beyond the sound-insulated recording booths.

<https://dephazz.com/music-videos>



RAY GELATO ts., voc. (UK) and the Ray Gelato Giants

<https://raygelato.com>

UK's Godfather of Swing... London-born saxophonist and singer Ray Gelato is a British jazz, swing and jump blues saxophonist, singer and bandleader. He is known as one of the major forces in the revival of swing music. Paul McCartney chose Ray Gelato to perform at his wedding, Bryan Adams and Richard Branson requested him for their private parties. Her Majesty the Queen twice asked for Ray to perform for her and her guests. Even Robbie Williams requested Ray to open for him at his "Swing When You're Winning" concert at the Royal Albert Hall. Gelato is considered by many to be one of the last in a long line of the classic jump-jive, swing and jazz entertainers. Expect to hear some foot-stompin' big band tunes that are guaranteed to have you jumpin' and jivin' and leave you feeling uplifted and inspired. Ray and his world class band The Giants deliver a high energy show, a mixture of swing, jazz, jump & jive and R&B that are unmistakably the band's own style that never fails to get a crowd on its feet, stomping its collective feet and demanding more. This, combined with Ray's fun and original songs, makes for an unforgettable evening that will leave you wanting more! "Not for nothing is Gelato known as The Godfather of Swing, a sheer delight" - Daily Telegraph "Awesome band" - Van Morrison "Gelato's dapper mixture of swing and Louis Prima jumping jive remains as invigorating as ever" - The Times "Taking swing to the masses... sheer fun and enjoyment" - The Times.

<https://raygelato.com/videos>



SCOTT HAMILTON ts., (USA/Italy)

<https://scotthamiltonsax.com>

Scott Hamilton, one of the all time great American Tenor Saxophone players, based in Europe (first London, now Florence) for around 20 years. He released his first recording in 1977 at just 23 and surprised critics and fans alike, with the depth and maturity of his playing. Scott, a Concord artist, went on to become an international jazz star, at a time when this no longer seemed possible with most jazz instrumentalists. He is one of the only musicians still representing this saxophone style shades of Ben Webster, Zoot Sims and Lester Young. Since then he has consistently, and successfully, bridged the gap between swing and bop, and has done so with a fluency and elegance that not many players have achieved. With his trademark of a relaxed, elegant, warm and deep but effortless sound, Hamilton puts his stamp on his style. He has recorded with some of the best pianists in the business (Tommy Flanagan, Gene Harris, John Bunch, Norman Simmons), as well as having played with Benny Goodman and Rosemary Clooney.

<https://youtu.be/e-1MnCarIs>
<https://youtu.be/N1e3szYXDJQ>
<https://youtu.be/0qDLHwFdqJ>



INCOGNITO (UK)

<https://incognito.london>

The enduring success of Incognito is one of the great stories of UK music during the past three decades. Songs like Always There, Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing, Still A Friend Of Mine and Everyday immediately conjure up that 1980s funk era, peaking in the 1990s: an energetic fusion of jazz, funk and R&B cooked up and served by the acid jazz, multi - cultural project around founder and multi instrumentalist Bluey Maunick. For over 40 years the Bluey and Incognito story remains a one-off and a uniquely Great British adventure. From Top Ten hits to producing and arranging for Chaka Khan, Philip Bailey and George Benson, Bluey Maunick can take his place among the greats of global soul.

<https://youtu.be/CHorHdxG04>
<https://youtu.be/5YXIE5RThkk>



IVAN LINS key, voc comp, (Brazil) * currently in Portugal until September

<https://ivanlins.com.br>

The multiple Award and Grammy winning songwriter and performer is one of the greatest composers and musicians Brazil. His first hit "Madalena" was recorded by Elis Regina in 1970. "Love Dance" a hit in 1989 is one of the most recorded songs in musical history. In fifty years career (in 2020!) he has realized over 30 albums. Some critics say that, if Caetano Veloso is the Bob Dylan of Bahia, Ivan Lins is the James Taylor of the Brazilian popular music. And who does not know the world hit: "You Look Wonderful Tonight" - an Ivan Lins song which he sang in a duet with Michal Buble. Or the hit for Sting which Ivan Lins wrote „She Walks This Earth“. A composer of delicious harmonic complexity and fascinating sense of rhythm, Lins has made himself known in Brazil and abroad, also for his film sound tracks, composed for many Brazilian films and soap operas. They have become standards of Brazilian popular music and of international pop music. Ivan Lins is one of the authors more appreciated, beloved and respected by musicians all over the world. During the last fifty years his songs have been interpreted by an endless list of artists, among which Sarah Vaughan, Betty Carter, Nancy Wilson, Sting, Diana Krall, George Benson, Daylights Schuur, Airto Moreira, Terence Blanchard and Manhattan Transfer, Patti Austin, David Benoit, Michael Bublé, Eliane Elias, Ella Fitzgerald, Dave Grusin, Shirley Horn, Quincy Jones, Sérgio Mendes, Jane Monheit, Mark Murphy, Charles McRae, Joe Pass, Lee Ritenour, Diane Schuur.

<https://youtu.be/6wQQBQHTX-0>
https://youtu.be/Kc26cJOHo_s
<https://youtu.be/CD8BpPdE3wE>
<https://youtu.be/odCTJE91WR8>
<https://youtu.be/YnwMDILNAEQ>



MEZZOFORTE (Iceland)

<https://mezzoforte.com>

After 30 years in music industry the Jazz - funksters from Iceland are a commercially successful Jazz- Pop Fusion group. And ALL (!!) founding members are still part of the band! Mezzoforte erupted in Iceland 30 years ago like a geyser and indeed became the surprise hit makers of 1983 in Europe with their single "Garden Party". The island-dwelling teens soared to the frontline of the pop world in seconds with this instrumental piece. They did not disappear after their sudden fame, as a matter of fact, they assigned themselves a path where their musical ideas could move along without any limitations and where they could continue their success. Their music combines Jazz and Funk elements with Pop and some danceable beats. Taking inspiration from bands like Spyro Gyra, Weather Report and Return to Forever, Mezzoforte has found their very particular Icelandic sound energizing live performances and thrilled audiences all over the world.

<https://youtu.be/VZ0tz0UKYms>
<https://youtu.be/T9N0stL1xXBI>
<https://youtu.be/ab0JC1ej7g>



TONY MOMRELLE voc. & Band (UK)

<https://tonymomrelle.com>

Tony Momrelle, former lead singer of the British Acid Jazz group Incognito or background singer and Chaka Khan, Whitney Houston, Sade is today one of the UK's most significant and exciting soulful singer-songwriters. He is a true darling of British Neo Soul Scene and even praised as the 'Stevie Wonder of the 21st century'. Momrelle's vocal gifts are amazing! That high tenor – never sounding tired or strained – is pure gold. Tony is an effortlessly talented artist, who comes from a family upbringing steeped in music and entertainment. He started studying music from the age of 8 and embraced gospel music through regular church attendance. In 1991, would come to meet global superstar, Gloria Estefan. Since then he's been touring with some of the best live musicians. His association with Estefan has been impressively followed by work for Whitney Houston, Sir Elton John, Take That and most recently Sade. He has recorded with urban gospel group, Seven, and released two solo-artist albums – the first, "Freetime", appeared on Art & Soul in 1999; the second, "Message In The Music", was released 10 years later. His last album "Keep Pushing" (Reel People Music) launched him firmly into the realm of solo star, with the title track hitting number one on the UK Soul Charts. He also received a nomination for Best Male Vocalist from SoulTracks.

<https://youtu.be/N1d-e0ho0ll>
<https://youtu.be/Q-wV59NYdlk>
https://youtu.be/zdJAishfT_I
<https://youtu.be/-cRgGhN4QGI>



SIMON OSLENDER org., key., p., (Germany)

<https://simonoslender.webs.com>

Simon Oslender (p. org., keys) is Germany's "Wunderkind" – a tremendously talented young artist and already a world star with 23 years of age. He fascinates musicians, audiences and critics alike with his own fresh signature sound – full of energy, Funky grooves, elegant melodies and an unstoppable joy in performing. With his mature feeling for timing and how to use it or – even more importantly – when to refrain from doing so. Despite his young age he is a member of Bill Evans band, Wolfgang Hafner's band and has worked with Randy Brecker and many greats in jazz. Simon performed with WDR Big Band in the young age of only 15 (!!), with the Metropole Orchestra even three years earlier! Known as long-time partner of Dutch drummer Jerome Cardynaals – in their duo Oslender & Cardynaals and as organist and keyboardist for the energetic soul/funk band Pimpy Panda. His debut album 'About Time' released in January 2020 features his regular band plus special guests Evans and Brecker. Produced by iconic keyboardist and producer Ricky Peterson. It's a brilliant debut released at the right time in Simon's career. A large-scale party that moves seamlessly between funk, jazz, fusion, soul, blues and pop cementing his framework with colorful voicing and nimble rhythmic embellishments.

https://youtu.be/_y8GSUJcdBQ



OLAF POLZIEHN TRIO pp., (Germany) with special guest

Olaf Polziehn has earned a reputation as one of Europe's most sought-after jazz pianists. As a soloist or as an accompanist he is equally hailed for his brilliant technique but also for its elegant style which is sophisticated, laid back and always with great taste. Evidence of this includes his work as musical director for Patti Austin in Europe and being part of Germanys Jazz Icon Till Brönners live band - concerts, recordings and TV appearances with musicians such as Take 6, Patti Austin, Randy Brecker, Quincy Jones, Al Jarreau, Al Foster, Bobby Durham, Benny Gordon, Scott Hamilton, Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, and many others. Pianist Monty Alexander wrote: "Olaf is in possession of outstanding piano technique and a wondrous touch." And Bob Mintzer remarked: "Olaf Polziehn is a terrific pianist! He draws upon the tradition and then takes the music to interesting new places, always with a keen sense of taste and style. He makes everyone in the band sound good and is a great conversationalist. All the ingredients for a great piano player!" Olaf Polziehn is professor for jazz piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria since 2008.

<https://youtu.be/z98indEqX44>



TUTU PUOANE voc., (Belgium/South Africa)

<https://tutupuoaanemusic.com>

Tutu Puoane a South African Jazz singer and songwriter grew up in the township of Mamelodi, Pretoria, South Africa. She started playing music professionally in 1997 in downtown Johannesburg and studied jazz vocals with Jelena Revshin, Natasha Roth-Schofield. After moving to Europe, she studied at the royal conservatory of The Hague (Netherlands) with Rachel Gould. Ms Puoane has received several awards from major South African Jazz competitions and is a two-time „ama“-winner for Best Vocal Jazz. She is undarguably one of the best voices and personalities South Africa has. Tutu Puoane stands out due to her understated but consistently expressive and affecting voice (an intimate, pure sound with just the right amount of tremolo) with a great depth of feeling Her range of material, embraces everything from McCoy Tyner's "You Taught My Heart To Sing" to Joni Mitchell's "I Don't Know Where I Stand" to originals, some with subtle, yet deep African roots. Her phrasing is subtle combining flawless phrasing with an organic and natural performance. Tutu has a distinct warm alto voice, phrasing is gentle but definite, not sweetish like with most of the new startlets recently. Miss Puoane leads her own quartet and is a regular guest vocalist for the great Brussels Jazz Orchestra, with which she released an album in honor of Miriam Makeba, called "Mama Africa", which also won a SAMA in May 2011 in the same category as "quiet now". They also released the awarded album album together „we have a dream“!

<https://brusselsjazzorchestra.com/index.php/nl/wehaveadream>
https://planning.brusselsjazzorchestra.com/en/products/dream/text_production



CÉLINE RUDOLPH voc., (Germany)

<https://www.celinrudolph.com>

Praised as a "voice to kneel down before" or "a jewel of European vocal jazz" by the press, Jazz vocalist, guitarist and composer Céline Rudolph amazes with her unique effortless moves between musical worlds of Jazz, Chanson, African and Brazilian rhythms. The French/German citizen and Berlin based singer, composer and guitarist Céline Rudolph, expresses herself perfectly in multiple languages. Gliding between the musical cultures of Latin-Africa, Africa, Europe and the U.S.A. Rudolph tends to incorporate a multitude of different styles in her music, often within a song. She makes this known not only through the music but also through the lyrics. "I write a song that starts en français—in that takes an English detour to rhyme with amour." A real 21st century artist! In 2010 Rudolph won the Echo Jazz award as 'Best German Female Vocalist of the Year' for her album „Metamorfoses“. The album OBSESSION reached the annual List of the German Critics Award „Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik“, and won the prestigious German Jazz Award ECHO JAZZ 2018 for best jazz vocalist. Since 2015 she is collaborating with New York based Beninese guitarist Lionel Loueke having recorded the duo album OBSESSION together. Besides this very successful Duo project ("from heart to heart"), Céline Rudolph performs with her own band. She also started a new solo programme called "SoniQ songlines" combining her vocal with loops, effects, percussion and guitar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYj12qGYkA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5w-UXI5BOY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR-DFESVaO4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ606H-DSM>



RALF SCHMID (Germany)

<https://ralfschmid.de>

Artist, pianist, arranger and composer Ralf Schmid is one of the most innovative artists in Europe. Studied classical piano, jazz composition and film music in Stuttgart, New York and Los Angeles. His unique style reflects a strong musical vision beyond stylistic boundaries. He has worked with such diverse artists as Michael Brecker, Whitney Houston, Daniel Hope, Herbie Hancock, Natalie Cole, Ivan Lins, Pee Wee Ellis, the New York Voices, the Danish Radio Big Band, the Budapest Philharmonic, the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra Los Angeles and many more in major cities all over Europe, the US, Asia, South Africa, Cuba and Brazil. Six albums released with trumpeter Joo Jackson, among others the ECHO-winning „Painting Pop“ and the Michael Jackson tribute „Songs from Neverland (#1 in the german jazz charts). Ralf Schmid conducted the Radio Big Bands of Copenhagen, Hamburg, Berlin, Stuttgart and Frankfurt and produced award-winning albums. Besides his Big Band scoring, he wrote commissioned works for choirs, symphony and chamber orchestras. His music theater „A distant drum“ was premiered in October 2014 at Carnegie Hall, New York and Bloemfontein, South Africa with violinist Daniel Hope, drummer Jason Marsalis and others. Schmid's futuristic piano-electro-project pyanook is unique worldwide and NOT to be missed! Ralf Schmid is professor at the renowned music university of Freiburg, Germany since 2002 and he created an amazing revolutionary project called „Pyanook“ which is unique in the world of Piano and touches undiscovered pianistic terrain:

PYANOOK: - Ralf Schmid performs live on two acoustic pianos with motion-controlled electronics. - Revolutionary data gloves detect hand and finger movements and enable PYANOOK to control sound processing in the flow of piano playing. - Futuristic piano recital 4D. Video-projections on aerial sculptures: PYANOOK's compositions/improvisations interact with the visual art of Pietro Cardarelli. "The blend of sound and movement seems like magic." Ralf Schmid piano & electronics, Pietro Cardarelli visual art, Michele Locatelli art direction Pyanook: <https://ralfschmid.de/video/pyanook-ralf-schmid-ambitious-solo-piano-project/>