

## CHRISTOPHE SCHWEIZER YOUNG, RICH & FAMOUS

Christophe Schweizer / Wanja Slavin / Oliver Potratz / Christian Lillinger

Christophe1Schweizer@gmail.com - all inquiries

Facebook/christopheschweizer

Soundcloud/christopheschweizer

Youtube, Vimeo/christopheschweizer /detected orchestra /moonsun /bristophe

www.christopheschweizer.com

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### YOUNG, RICH & FAMOUS

- is a Berlin based band formed in 2013 by Christophe Schweizer. What sets this group apart, is their lack of dogma while remaining extremely coherent, and their brilliance. Their music might be compared to a tight rope act without a net and defies categorization: While clearly relying on composed structures, everyone constantly challenges his mates with new moves in the game of a given performance. The result is equally intense and touching emotionally as it is satisfying intellectually - an intriguing exploration of the borderline between grooving Jazz and New Music.



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### CHRISTOPHE SCHWEIZER - trombone

- is a trombonist and composer who during a decade of living in New York performed with organizations such as the Mingus Big Band, the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra, the George Gruntz Concert Jazz Band, George Schuller's Orange then Blue and others, with which he has toured in the US, Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia.

He has recorded and toured with his own groups featuring a.o. pianists Ethan Iverson, Jason Moran and George Colligan, Saxophonists Donny McCaslin, Seamus Blake, Ohad Talmor, drummer Billy Hart, and trumpeter Alex Sipiagin, - the latter a musical relationship rekindled in 2014 with a quintet concert in Hamburg.

Earlier the same year, he acted as musical director and arranger for a large ensemble performance featuring Gary Thomas at Hamburg's JazzHausFestival.

His group "Moonsun" with David Binney, Jacob Sacks, Hans Glawischnig and Dan Weiss released the albums "Cocoa" (Unit Records 2010, nominated for the German Jazz Critics Award and found on several "best-of-2010" lists a.o. in JazzThing magazine) and "Opus" (Unit Records 2012).

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In 2010, Schweizer formed "Detected Orchestra", a large group featuring among others Stéphane Galland, Guillaume Perret, Claudio Puntin, and Jürgen Attig, for which he orchestrated a series of compositions by Joe Zawinul which were performed at Elbjazz Festival.

He has taught at the Banff Jazz Workshop (Canada), of which he is an alumnus, in 1999 and 2000, and at Outreach Academy in Schwaz, Austria (2013) and has participated in many collaborations such as with Lee Konitz, Steve Swallow, Joe Lovano, Nguyen Le, Markus Stockhausen, Arkady Shilkloper. Christophe was the soloist in a performance of Daniel Schnyder's Alhorn Concerto with the Gstaad Festival Orchestra in Shanghai in 2006.

He is active as a New Music performer as part of the duo "Bristophe" (with Brice Catherin), which released two double albums in 2013 and 2014 on the Pan y Rosas label and created a sound installation for Antony Gormley's "Horizon Field" at Deichtorhallen Hamburg as part of Elbjazz 2012. In 2010 Christophe premiered Brice Catherin's solo performance "Ma pièce avec comme un espoir à la fin", which lasts for an uninterrupted 10 hours, at Maison des Arts du Grutli, Geneva.

"Young, Rich & Famous" is Christophe's most recent, Berlin based group, in which he considers himself very fortunate to have found three kindred spirits who share his passion and appetite for exploring the borderline between grooving Jazz and New Music. They are looking forward to the release of their first album as a group, recorded in Spring, 2014.



©Michael Wassenberg

## WANJA SLAVIN - alto saxophone

- recently (2014) won the prestigious german "Echo" award for best Saxophonist - the most recent addition to his growing list of distinctions: he twice won first prize in the New Generation Förderpreis of the Bayerischer Rundfunk, and at Gasteig Musikwettbewerb, Jugend Jazzt and BMW Welt Jazz Award 2011 won second prize.

In 2005, Wanja debuted as a composer at Festival der Münchner Gesellschaft für neue Musik. Around the same time he premiered compositions by composer Benedikt W. Schiefer and Vadim Werbitzky who had dedicated their work to Slavin.

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Wanja Slavin has been invited to festivals such as Münchner Klaviersommer and Moers Festival, and has worked with musicians such as Joachim Kühn, Kenny Wheeler, Mederic Collignon, John Schröder, Rudi Mahall, Alexander von Schlippenbach, Tobias Delius, Marty Cook, Geoff Goodman, Paulo Cardoso, Wilfried Hiller, Christian Lillinger, to name a few.

His current projects are: Lotus Eaters, Wanja Slavin Sextet and the trio Slavin / Eldh / Lillinger.



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### OLIVER POTRATZ – double bass

- started out as an electric bassist and turned to double bass at age 20, studying this instrument both classically and as a Jazz artist. Both his degrees were earned with the highest distinctions.

While still a student, Oliver was a laureate of the Menuhin Foundation. In 2008, he won the “Neuer Deutscher Jazzpreis” with the Band “Klima Kalima”, and went on to win second prize the following year with the Carsten Daerr Trio.

He continues to perform as a Jazz player as well as in the fields of Classical / Contemporary music and Tango, and his playing is documented on over 30 albums to date.

Among the many musicians he has played with one finds Kalle Kalima, Oliver Steidle, Christian Lillinger, John Schröder, Carsten Daerr, Frank Gratkowski, Tomasz Stanko, David Friedman, Claudio Puntin, Gebhard Ullmann, Gitte Haenning, M. Rostropovich, Rolando Villazon, Tim Fischer, Wencke Myhre, and Rolf Kühn.

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## CHRISTIAN LILLINGER - drums

- studied at Hochschule für Musik Dresden with Günther “Baby” Sommer. From 2001 to 2003 he was a member of the Bundesjugendjazzorchester. He was a winner of the “Leipziger Improvisationswettbewerb” in 2001.

Lillinger is a member the collaborative trio “Hyperactive Kid” with Saxophonist Philipp Gropper and guitarist Ronny Graupe. His own group “Grund” was formed in 2008 and released Albums in 2008 and 2009 on Clean Feed Records.

As a sideman, Lillinger works with musicians and ensembles such as Rolf Kühn, Joachim Kühn, Miroslav Vitous, Beat Furrer, Rudi Mahall, John Schröder, Barre Phillips, Ernst-Ludwig Petrowsky, Wadada Leo Smith, Frank Gratkowski, Simon Nabatov, Tobias Delius, Axel Dörner, Thomas Lehn, Louis Sclavis, Bruno Chevillon, David Liebman, Gebhard Ullmann, Médéric Collignon, Alexander von Schlippenbach, Urs Leimgruber, Theo Jörgensmann, Zeitkratzer, John Edwards, Greg Cohen, William Parker, Joe Lovano, Tony Malaby.

Groups he works with include “Euphorium”, a Leipzig-based contemporary art ensemble, the trio “Elan Pauer” with Ernst-Ludwig Petrowsky and Oliver Schwerdt, the piano trio “Grünen” with Achim Kaufmann and Robert Landfermann, and the trio “Dell Westergaard Lillinger”. “Starlight”, a trio with Wanja Slavin and Petter Eldh, was formed in 2011 and released their debut recording on the Unit label in 2013.

Lillinger was a laureate of the Kompositionsstipendium des Berliner Senats in 2013.

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## PRESS QUOTES

"Now here at last is a truly extraordinary album in every respect"

Josef Engels about COCOA in RONDO (2010)

"COCOA stands out like a monolith in today's musical landscape"

JAZZTHETIK Rolf Thomas (2010)

"The positive spirit and liveliness (of this album) are hard to top".

JAZZTHING Wolf Kampmann (2010)

"...if this music is called jazz, it's because there is no other term for it".

DIE WELT Stefan Hentz (about COCOA, 2010)

„Excellent performance by Christophe Schweizers Quintett MOONSUN, mixing the american tradition with new Jazz from Europe.“

O PUBLICO Portugal (3/15/04,) Moonsun 2004

„From MOONSUN we heard fresh, innovative music which results from the contact of American and European traditions. With the contributions of David Binney (sax) and the astonishing drum technique of Dan Weiss, this resulted in great music“

CORREIO DA MANHA, Lisbon (3/16/04), Moonsun 2004

“Excellent arrangements and beautiful music: Christophe Schweizer has something to say in new Jazz”

.EXPRESSO Lisbon (3/19/04), Moonsun 2004

„The most innovative and exciting Jazz concert in Stuttgart in 2003 was beyond any doubt Christophe Schweizers performance with 5SIX7.“

Concert preview, Stuttgart 2004, Moonsun 2004

„During the last few years, rarely has a band played in such an intricate way with hidden spaces.“

SCHWEIZER ILLUSTRIERTE Hanspeter Vetsch (about Full Circle Rainbow: DUAL ORBIT“)

„Wonderful compositions, arrangements and resourceful solos throughout this entire gem“

DOWNTOWN MUSIC GALLERY New York (about Normal Garden: PHYSIQUE)

“This is how Jazz in the 21st century is fun!“

JAZZTHETIK Nov. 2002, Henry Altmann (about Normal Garden: PHYSIQUE)

Passion in Jazz works differently: the quintet 5SIX7 dissects trombonist and band leader Christophe Schweizer's compositions with coldblooded precision.(...)

All of this, and this is what's the artistry of 5SIX7, without giving way to academic stiffness.”

DER TAGESSPIEGEL, Berlin, May 2001

„(..) A great relief amidst the ubiquitous „anything goes“. Could this be the rebirth of modernism announcing itself ?“

Peter Ruedi,

DIE WELTWOCHE, 2001 (about 5SIX7)

„Schweizer's performance with 5SIX7 is among the most exciting experiences to be found in modern Jazz has to offer.“

DER BUND, Bern, 2001

„...I count Schweizer, together with trombonists such as Nils Wogram and Conrad perwig, among today's greats on his instrument....“

JazzNmore, 2001 (Johannes Anders