

beyond borders band

Oriental Jazz



Beyond Borders – overcoming all obstacles

Crossing borders requires courage, creativity and openness for a new form of social and musical composition. The six members of the Beyond Borders Band are united in the dream to overcome those borders. They break up cultural boundaries, surpass geographical barriers and social and political stereotypes in order to connect the arabic and the western world. These characteristics lead to their self-composed, original music. Sensually ambitious and fully intoxicating, this unique sound makes the young group stick out among the contemporary musical collectives combining Orient and Occident.

Fadhel Boubaker – Oud

Niko Seibold – Saxophone

Jonathan Sell – Double Bass

Dominik Fürstberger - Drumset

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„With all the soloists of Beyond Borders Band, it is simply flying high. Composition-wise, there is a consistency, a coherence, originality and innovation.“

La Presse Tunis (2014), Khaled Tebourbi

„With a combination of oud, double bass, percussion and saxophone the four musicians create an intricate web of european jazz beats and arabic music tradition which overcomes all musical styles.“

Süddeutsche Zeitung (18th August 2017) , Barbara Hordych

„This music is very mature. It takes a lot of talent and skills to create and play arrangements such as these. Maybe it takes a certain amount of life experience to understand and feel the message. For us this is a huge discovery. What we've seen today is avantgarde and an expression of freedom.“

Mehdi Lariani, Visitor of a concert in Tunis (29th March 2015)

„A real silversmith work and (the essential!) no "plating" between oriental phrasing and western phrasing. Nothing overdone, "juxtaposed", but sounds that meet, even merge into one another because precisely they are intended for them.“

La Presse Tunis (2014), Khaled Tebourbi

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Band Biography

The Beyond Borders Band was founded in Germany in 2011 with as a quartet of oud, double bass, saxophone and piano. In December of the same year they had a first artist residency in Tunis to build up a repertoire which became the basis for their first recording *Un Coup Du Destin* (2013). With this album the band was performing intensely mainly between Tunisia, Germany and Switzerland and caught the attention of several international cultural institutions & festivals (Goethe Institut, Hammamet International Festival, Elb-Jazz Festival Hamburg, Theater im Pfalzbau Ludwigshafen, etc.).

The critics were mainly mentioning their music as a "perfect balance" between Western and Arabic music elements. The musicians also adapt the way they play to a context of cultural exchange which is of course a frequent approach, but the Beyond Borders Band remains unique on this field for several reasons: Oud is improvising over chord changes, saxophone and bass knowing and manipulating Arabic maqâm scales, drums playing over Arabic rhythms and a lot more. For their new album *It Just Happens* (Nov 2018, HOUT Records) the band is now composed of a quartet of oud, saxophone, double bass and drums, exploring a sharper sound in absence of harmony instruments, and proposing compositions that reach many musical scopes.



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From a struck of destiny to effortless creativity

Die Beyond Borders Band veröffentlicht ihr zweites Album

“After *Un Coup De Destin* (2013) which marks their self-published debut, the border-crossing German-Tunisian collective took some time until their second release. They seemed to have used this time to further shape their special sound and sharpen their profile as a young, ambitious group of musicians through numerous concerts on both the European and the African continent. Which is impressive given the distance between their residences in Tunisia and Germany/Switzerland.

Despite several changes in the original line-up they managed to present the world a record that demonstrates their maturity not only in a professional production. Furthermore *It Just Happens* (2018/HOUT records) is convincingly variable in sound and form, displaying a colourful palette of new compositions executed with virtuosity and great emotionality. Recorded at the studio of Jazzcampus in Basel (Switzerland), mixed by Dominik Fürstberger and sent to renown mastering engineer Michael Fossenkemper at Turtle Tone Studios, New York City, this CD is a true listening pleasure.

Boubaker's driving 5-7 for example shows the group's experience with complex rhythms while pieces like *New C Minor* and *Sammai* might take you away in dream of foreign land. The latter transitions into saxophonist Seibold's modal and prayer-like composition *No Pale Gleam* in order to form a 20-minutes long musical trip. As a premiere, drummer Dominik Fürstberger brings two astonishingly melodic and elegant pieces to the program: *Stück, Du!* and *Messiaen*. Most compositions though are presented by the Tunisian oud virtuoso as is the album's title track. His energetic and rhythmic playing and his passionate way of interpreting melodies stand on a basis of a broad knowledge of traditional arabic music as well as Jazz, Rock and Barock. Sell's pulsating, almost rock-style bass playing pushes the soloists to higher grounds but he also proves to have studied arabic maqam theory as he shows off in *Sammai*.

This record is a successful and long-time due production by the dynamic group. We can expect exciting shows in fall 2018 as part of their release tour and surely new wonderful surprises in the future. Furthermore they've found an exciting partner in [HOUT records](http://houtrecords.com), a newly created label based in Basel and Berlin which focuses on unique projects that represent Jazz in a detached-groovy interpretation.”

- Beni D. Loosik

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Fadhel Boubaker – Oud

Fadhel started to play oud with his teacher Slaheddin J'aïbi. From early on he was fascinated by the number of possibilities this instrument offers. He mastered the repertoire of Tunisian Malûf. After discovering Western music he started improving his own musical language, bringing to his instrument western music aesthetic elements and building a stronger acknowledgement of harmony, jazz

improvisation and composition. At the University of Music in Tunis he wrote his final thesis on 'The intercultural exchange between jazz and maqam music'. In 2003 he began composing for international projects and thereby crossing the borders between Jazz and Arabic music. Fadhel is currently lecturing on 'Instant Composing' and 'Jazz-Fusion' at the High Institute for Music in Tunis.



Niko Seibold – Saxophone

After spending one year as a Composition Major at renowned Manhattan School of Music in New York, German Saxophonist and Composer/Arranger Niko Seibold now works in and out of Switzerland, living in Basel on the border to France and Germany. The international and creative scene there led to the creation of several ensembles like his main quartet *SEIBOLZiNG*, the harp & sax duo *Harpkissax* with Geneva based



Harpist Esther Sévérac, the 11-piece chamber jazz group *Elfton Ensemble* and the NY based *Niko Seibold Big Band*. As a performer he has worked with Guillermo Klein, Jorge Rossy and Mark Turner among others. Furthermore he has gained more attention as an arranger for big band and orchestra which brought him commissions from Grammy-nominated percussionist Bobby Sanabria and the internationally acclaimed Metropole Orkest with American Singer Kandace Springs. Apart from his creative output he also passes on his knowledge to those interested in his knowledge. He co-founded the *Toskana Intensiv Jazz Workshop* where he teaches instrumental groups, improvisation and music theory. Niko holds a bachelor's degree from the conservatory of Mannheim and a master's degree from Jazzcampus Basel, Switzerland, both in musical performance. Niko Seibold believes in the importance of balance between intellect and emotion, head and body, inspiration and aspiration in music. His compositional work reflects and stays true to this philosophy.

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Jonathan Sell – Double Bass

Jonathan Sell plays in a wide range of styles, from western classical music to progressive rock, from jazz to oriental maqam. In July 2017 he finished his master studies of jazz-double-bass with Prof. Thomas Stabenow in Mannheim with distinction. His final concert was performed with a band project that connected arabic music, indian music, Jazz and Rock. A central characteristic of his



play is the interpretation of music as the universal language that overcomes cultural, national and stylistic borders. He is a member of the Orientalische Musikakademie Mannheim, where he commits himself to cultural exchange through music. Beside *Beyond Borders Band* the following groups are his most important means of expression: *The Swindlers* (Prog Rock & Jazz), *NeckarGanga* (Indian Jazz), *Tuyala* (Spoken Word & Jazz), and *Fityan* (Oriental Jazz Rock).

Dominik Fürstberger – Drumset

Dominik Fürstberger is a drummer, composer and producer. Working intensely on a hybrid instrument of acoustic drums and live-electronics with the goal of giving acoustic sounds a totally new sonic dimension has been shaping the focus of his artistic activity over the last years. This idea is being realized in various groups including the german tunisian band Haz'art Trio, the electronic pop duo FLEEB, the



techno orchestra VKKO and the Beyond Borders Band. The border-crossing work has also become important during Dominik Fürstberger's theatre works. At Staatstheater Mainz he was on stage as drummer and sounddesigner during the productions *Die Sirenen des Titan* (2015) and *Das Käthchen von Heilbronn* (2016/2017) and was composing and producing the music for *Orestes* (2017).

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Concerts 2018

Autumn	CD Release Tour <i>It Just Happens</i>	international
07. September	Kulturforum Altrip	Germany
November	CD Release Concert Enjoy Jazz Festival	Germany

Projects 2019

01.- 23. January	Residency <i>uncool Festival</i> in Poschiavo	Switzerland
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Past Concerts

2017

02. September	<i>Jazzcampus Basel</i>	Switzerland
05.-14. August	Artists in Residence <i>Festival Junger Künstler Bayreuth</i>	Germany
12. August	<i>Kloster Speinshart</i> Roots to the Future	Germany
10. August	<i>Europasaal Bayreuth</i> Roots to the Future	Germany

2016

23. September	<i>Stiftskirche St. Arnual</i> Saarbrücken	Germany
28. May	<i>Festival Gmünder Sommer</i> Schwäbisch Gmünd	Germany

2015

10. September	<i>Goethe Institut Tunis</i>	Tunisia
30. March	<i>Maison de la Culture Cheikh Idriss</i> Bizerte	Tunisia
29. March	<i>Salle de Mondial</i> Tunis	Tunisia
28. March	<i>L'Agora</i> La Marsa	Tunisia
26. March	<i>Centre des Musiques Arabes et Méditerranéennes</i>	Tunisia
25. March	<i>Basilique d'el Kef</i> Festival Cinema de la Paix	Tunisia

2014

19. October	<i>Orientalische Musikakademie Mannheim</i>	Germany
18. October	<i>Die Fabrik</i> Frankfurt	Germany
21. July	<i>Festival International de Hammamet</i>	Tunisia
23. May	<i>Elbjazz Festival</i> Hamburg	Germany
26. March	<i>Le Festival de L'Herbe</i> Tunis	Tunisia
24. January	<i>Theater im Pfalzbau</i> Ludwigshafen	Germany

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2013

14. October	<i>Acropolium Carthage</i> Tunis	Tunisia
12.- 22. August	<i>Artists in Residence Festival Junger Künstler Bayreuth</i>	Germany
10. August	<i>Orientalische Musikakademie Mannheim</i>	Germany
	CD Release Konzert <i>Un Coup Du Destin</i>	

2012

17. August	<i>Dar Cherif Jerba</i>	Tunisia
14. August	<i>Centre des Musiques Arabes et Méditerranéennes</i>	Tunisia

2011

18. December	<i>Centre des Musiques Arabes et Méditerranéennes</i>	Tunisia
23. August	<i>Orient meets Okzident Bayreuth</i>	Germany



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