

AXEL HAGEN TRIO *feat.* JIMMY HALPERIN

"Musical Interplay at it's best!" This international quartet consisting of Axel Hagen on guitar, Jimmy Halperin on tenor sax, Thomas Andersen on bass and Peter Kahlenborn on drums was formed in march 2005. The musicians are deeply rooted in "Bebop" and the music of "Lennie Tristano", Jimmy himself even studied with Tristano in the seventies. For their new concert- tour in 2007 they choose the compositions of master pianist Bud Powell as their main focus, besides compositions of all the members of the group. They will record a follow-up to their highly acclaimed 2005 release "East of the sun" (Bluejackjazzrecords BJJR031) also for Blue Jack Jazz Records in the early fall of 2007.

Tenor saxophone: Jimmy Halperin, 1958



Jimmy began playing the saxophone at 9 years of age and was introduced to **Lennie Tristano** at 18 years of age with whom he studied for two years until the passing of the great teacher/pianist. He then continued his studies with **Sal Mosca** with whom he received 3 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship grants for study. He has frequently toured in the States and Europe with his own bands, and has recorded for television, film and radio both in the USA and Europe. He has played with musicians such as: Sal Mosca, Lee Konitz, Ted Brown, Eddie Gomez, Sonny Dallas and Albert Heath. Jimmy has associated with Bill Evans, Freddie Hubbard, Elvin Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Henry Grimes, Sarah Vaughan, Jimmy Heath, Max Roach, Red Mitchell, Anita O'Day and Roy Haynes among others. He can be heard on a duo recording "**Psalm**" with **Sal Mosca** (Zinnia Record 1998), with his own quartet "**Liquid Jazz**" (Mystic/Eclipse 1999), a trio CD with Don Messina and Bill Chaitin entitled "**Cycle Logical**"

(Cadence 2003), several releases with the quintet **Line Up** (NORCD 2001 & 2004), a trio release with **Dominic Duval** and **Jay Rosen** (CIMP 2004), "**Back Home**" with **Warne Marsh**, Tootie Heath and **Barry Harris** (CrissCross) and on Sonny Dallas' release "**Sonny Dallas Plays and Sings**" (1987) among others. Jimmy has also taught at music conservatories, colleges and universities as associate professor and has given workshops. **"He is considered a master musician and improviser"**.

Drums: Peter Kahlenborn, 1963



He was born in Bonn and is a drummer with wide experience. At the age of 11 he enjoyed his first taste as a musician by recording with a local brass band. Three years later he received his first lessons at the Rheinische Musikschule in Cologne, with Sperre Carras and Professor **Charles Caskel**. He met famous drummer **Mel Lewis** at the conservatory in Hamburg. Mel encouraged him to continue his studies, so Peter went on to the conservatory at Hilversum. He was helped by teachers like **Adam Nussbaum**, **Jack de Johnette**, John

Abercrombie and **Dave Holland**. From 1993-1995 he studied composition with **Bob Brookmeyer**. Subsequently, he has forged an international reputation, working in many countries. Besides playing drums and percussion, he has won recognition as a composer, writing for his own ensembles featuring pianist **Achim Kaufmann**, saxophonist **Julian Arguelles** et al. Since 2000, Peter has been the drummer with Fabula, the quartet of singer **Celine Rudolph**, playing concerts worldwide. He has also performed with such leading players as **John Taylor**, Matthias Schubert, Ramesh Shotam, Kris Goessens, Jürgen Friedrich and Christopher Dell.

Guitar: Axel Hagen, 1963



He was born in Karlsruhe (Germany). Between 1985 and 1990 he studied at the Hilversum Conservatory with Peter Nieuwerf and **Wim Overgaauw**. Continued studies with master musicians like **Barry Harris**, Jimmy Raney and Frans Elsen helped develop his style. For Axel, the music of Charlie Parker and Lennie Tristano is his main influence and guitaristically he plays in the style of Jimmy Raney, Chuck Wayne, Tal Farlow and Jim Hall. In 1990, Axel Hagen became a member of the rhythm section of the renowned "**Metropole Orchestra**" of the Dutch radio. With this orchestra

under the direction of Rob Pronk, Bill Hollman and Chuck Israels, he can be heard on various CD- and radio recordings with internationally known jazz musicians like Tommy Flanagan, Lou Levy, Clark Terry, Lee Konitz, Claudio Roditi, Bill Perkins and Tom Harrell. Axel lead groups with Dutch musicians like Ferdinand Fovel, Rob Langereis, Victor Kaihatu and Marco Kegel, performing on major jazz venues all over Europe. Besides this activity, he recorded 4 CD's under his own name for the Dutch record-label "Bluejackjazzrecords". These CD's are respectively with **Marco Kegel**, **Jimmy Halperin** and the Gustav Klimt String-Quartet featuring **Lee Konitz** (for this project Axel wrote all the arrangements). His newest CD (recorded in July 06') is with Dutch jazz-veterans **Frans Elsen** and **Jacques Schols**. Axel can be heard as a sideman on CD's with Rob Pronk, John Clayton, Jeff Hamilton, Rob van Krefeld, Sanna van Vliet and Fay Claassen. With his trio he performed with Jesper Thilo, Al Galodoro, Ack van Rooyen, Bart van Lier, Hod O'Brien and regularly features saxophonist and clarinetist John Ruocco. He is also a dedicated and renowned teacher of jazz-music, hosting workshops on Conservatories in Germany and the Netherlands.

<http://www.axelhagen.com>

Bass: Thomas Winther Andersen, 1969



Originally from Norway Thomas Winther Andersen has been based in Amsterdam for several years. Thomas graduated from Amsterdam Conservatory in 1993 where he studied with **Arnold Dooyeweerd** (bass) and **Misha Mengelberg** (composition). A year later he added a master at the Conservatory of The Hague. In 1995 he received a grant from the Dutch foundation "Fonds voor de podiumkunsten" to study in New York with Sal Mosca. Next to playing the bass Thomas contributes with compositions and arrangements in most of his bands. Many of his compositions were recorded on cds and for the radio. He toured in Europe and the USA with different musicians and bands and also performed solo bass with dancers in different theatre productions. Thomas is a steady member of the **Robert Rook** trio. In the fall 2006 nored released a recording with this band playing Thomas' composition. Other musicians Thomas has worked with are **Lee Konitz**, **Sheila Jordan**, Jasper Blom, Michiel Borstlap, Håkon Storm and many more. As a bandleader he recorded the albums: "Out From A Cool Storage" (nored 0454), "Too Much Bass?" (nored 0245), "Line Up: (nored 9831) and "Sketch" (via records 1998).

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