

Mikhail Gnesin Project - Ensemble

With various musical backgrounds and residing in different countries, the musicians have devoted their time and energy – each from an individual point of view – to the performance and interpretation of Jewish music. Each one has developed specialties. Violinist Grigory Sedukh and cellist Alexander Oratovski, both exponents of the classical Russian tradition, started their rediscovery of the Russian Jewish composers in St.-Petersburg with their concerts and CDs. Clarinetist Perry Robinson represents the American tradition of improvised music and is closely connected to the Jewish *new wave* in New York. Percussionist Roberto Haliffi, who originates from Libya, is a specialist in klezmer and world music. Pianist Anat Fort and vocalist Sovali, who both have a background in classical as well as improvised music, serve as the bridge between these worlds. Anat Fort, from Israel, carries with her the musical atmosphere of the Middle East and Sovali, from Amsterdam, studied the cantorial melodies. These musicians have worked together in different combinations, but in this project they have all come together as a group for the first time.

Musicians' Resumes



Soprano **SOVALI (Sofie van Lier)**, the daughter of Dutch composer Bertus van Lier, pursues a personal approach in music and vocal expression, and is interested in the experiment. Initially a dancer in the Dutch National Ballet, she started her vocal career as Voice with the Nedly Elstak Trio. She studied singing with Gerhard Meyer in the Netherlands, and Jon Frederick West and Eleanor Steber in New York. She also took lessons from the Indian singer Uday Bhawalkar and the renowned jazz musician and composer Ornette Coleman. Sofie van Lier got a Master's degree in musicology at the University of Amsterdam, where she graduated with Frits Noske and Ton de Leeuw. She has given solo recitals in the Netherlands and abroad and performed in music/theater, musical and film productions and on radio. With the Nedly Elstak Trio she recorded for ESP-Disk's 'The Machine', and for the BVHaast Label she recorded songs by Dutch composer Bernard van Dieren. She was recently featured on the Klezmokum CD 'Le Dor Va Dor' with Jewish music from WW II (BVHaast CD 0700). Her repertoire is varied and includes vocal works in different styles from different periods, as well as her own compositions.



PERRY ROBINSON - soprano & soprano clarinet - composer. *"Perry Robinson is widely regarded as the most gifted modern jazz clarinetist"* Robert Palmer, New York Times.

For almost four decades, Perry Robinson has been a leading force in revitalizing the jazz clarinet. With a distinctive sound and a unique vision, Mr. Robinson has traveled the globe bringing his fresh and provocative clarinet music to millions of listeners.

Immersed in music from earliest childhood, Perry expanded on his roots as the son of legendary folk music composer Earl Robinson with studies at New York's High School of Music and Art, the Lenox School of Jazz in Massachusetts, the Manhattan School of

Music, and with Kalman Bloch, Eric Simon, and Jimmy Giuffre.

From 1959 on Perry has devoted himself to making the clarinet a premier jazz instrument. Perry's world travels began in that year, with a European tour in Catalonian pianist Tete Montoliou's group. A multi-continent tour with "2 Generations of Brubeck" in the early 1970s brought Perry worldwide attention, and he went on to tour Europe with Gunter Hampel's Galaxie Dream Band throughout the 1970s, tour Italy with Ginger Baker in 1984, and tour Germany as featured clarinetist with the German Clarinet Duo of Theo Jorgensmann and Eckard Koltermann in 1990-1991. He has toured Europe several times yearly with Burton Greene's Klezmer group Klezmokum since 1992, and with his own Perry Robinson Quartet since the mid- 1980s.

Perry has honed his bandleading and composing skills in a variety of formats since the 60s, when his small group, the Uni Trio, began performing in New York. Continuously exploring different setting for the clarinet, Perry went on to form Bagdad, combining magic, music and dance; Pipe Dreams, featuring

voices; Licorice Factory, with 7 clarinets (including Tony Scott, Eddie Daniels, and Mark Whitecage) plus rhythm section; and the Space-Time Swing Band, a horns, brass and vocal big band. Perry currently leads and composes for his Quartet, formed in 1984 to showcase his clarinet with piano, bass and drums. The Quartet has twice recorded for Germany's West Wind, *Call to the Stars* and *Nightmare Island*, and 1988 saw the release of *Angelology*, on Timesraper Records.

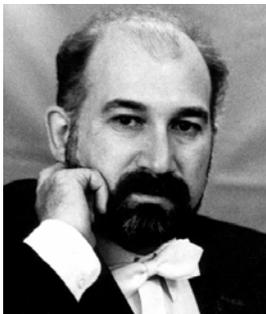
Perry has appeared on over 40 recordings. Beginning in 1962 with his now classic Savoy recording *Funk Dumpling*, Perry has recorded with Henry Grimes, Carla Bley's Jazz Composers Orchestra Association, Charlie Haden, Archie Shepp, 2 Generations of Brubeck, Gunter Hampel, Jeanne Lee, Allen Ginsburg, Muraga, and the German Clarinet Duo, among others. His work with Klezmokum is documented on their BVHaast CD's *Jew-azzic Park*, *Rejewvention*, and *Le Dor Va Dor*.

Another aspect of Perry's diverse talent was heard when composer/conductor Gary Schneider wrote "Concerto For Jazz Clarinet and Orchestra" for Perry to premiere in 1985 with the Hoboken Chamber Orchestra. Perry performed the "Concerto" again with New York's American Composers Orchestra, New Jersey's Chamber Symphony of Princeton, and at the In Zelt Festival, Freiburg, Germany. All of this musical activity was recognized with awards in Downbeat magazine's International Jazz Critics Poll in 1967, 1975-1980, and 1984, and with an Arts International Travel Grant in 1992.



MICHEL MARANG (Holland, 1962) studied clarinet with Walter Boeykens and finished conservatory cum laude in 1987, in which year he also got his degree in philosophy at Amsterdam University. After this he studied with Hans Deinzer (Germany) and followed Masterclasses with Roger Heaton (England) and Susan Stephens (USA). Apart from his occupations in classical music, theatre, and world-music, Marang specialized in contemporary music. He worked together with many composers, a.o. Olivier Messiaen, Morton Feldman, Edison Denisov and Karlheinz Stockhausen. With the latter he studied his monumental 'Harlequin', a 45 minute solo for dancing and miming clarinetist. Over twenty compositions were dedicated to him. As a soloist, Michel Marang performed in most countries of Europe, USA, Russia, Ukrann,

Estonia, India and the Middle-East. He is a guest teacher at the Moscow Conservatory.



Violinist **GRIGORY SEDUKH** (1952, Kharkov, Ukraine). Grigory Sedukh began his violin studies at the age of five. His father who was a professional violinist and a teacher taught him first. In 1975 he received his BA at the Conservatory in Kharkov where he studied with professor Adolf Lechinski, who had been a pupil of the outstanding European violinist Carl Flesch. A post graduate study followed at the State Conservatory 'Rimsky-Korsakov' in St. Petersburg. In 1995 Grigory Sedukh was introduced to the violin-piccolo made by well-known American violinmaker Dr. Carleen Maley Hutchins and this tiny violin became his favorite instrument. Grigory Sedukh is now the soloist (violin-piccolo) of the St. Petersburg Hutchins Violin Octet. With this unique ensemble he recorded Vivaldi's "The Little Goldfinch" Concerto, and

this recording reached the semifinals of Grammy Awards-1998. He gives numerous concerts with St. Petersburg orchestras as well as many recitals. Grigory Sedukh successfully toured the US in 1998, where he made a CD. He is the author of many transcriptions for violin-piccolo of world classical pieces, including the Six Cello Suites by J.S. Bach. The full score of this arrangement was published in St. Petersburg and recorded at the St. Petersburg Recording Studio (former "Melodia"). Another CD was released in 2000 featuring Christmas Carols and tunes. Grigory Sedukh has been teaching at the Chamber Music Department of the St. Petersburg State Conservatory since 1994, and teaches the violin-piccolo at the St. Petersburg Conservatory since 1997. Being a very thorough teacher, he not only follows the traditions of Russian classical violin school, but also introduces his students to new impulse from some of the famous current European teachers such as Zachar Bron, Wolfgang Marschner, whose master classes he regularly attends. He is a member of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Chief conductor Y. Temirkanov) since 1989. He played second violin with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic String Quartet from 1993-1995, giving many concerts in Russia and abroad. From 1980-1989 he joined the Theatre Symphony Orchestra, and from 1978-1980 he was the principal violinist of the Leningrad Concert Orchestra. Grigory Sedukh gives many solo-recitals throughout the world. In September 2001 he performed in the opera 'Alice in Wonderland' produced

by the Netherlands Opera at the Music Theatre in Amsterdam. Composer Alexander Kneiffel had especially written a part for Grigory's piccolo violin.



ALEXANDER ORATOVSKI, cellist/composer, from Russia, graduated with honors from the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1973. He won prizes at the Russian National Competition in Moscow in 1972 and the International Competition in Gernsbach, BRD in 1991. He played cello in the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra and solo cello in the St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra (1974-1990). In 1990 Alexander Oratovski came to the Netherlands, where he joined the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra (1991-1993) and the Brabants Orchestra (1993-1999). He became a Dutch national in 1996. In 2000 he moved to Germany, where he works as solo cellist with the Meininger Orchestra (BDR). Oratovski's first encounter with unknown work by the Russian Jewish composers of the St. Petersburg Society of Jewish Folk Music (founded in 1908) was in 1988. Soon concerts with music by these composers were organized in St. Petersburg. Since 1991 Oratovski regularly performs these forgotten, but fascinating Jewish musical works.



ANAT FORT - pianist, composer. Originally from Israel, Anat Fort played classical piano from the age of six, but it was not until she was close to 20 that she decided to focus on jazz. Shortly after her service in the Israeli army, she came to the U.S. and entered the jazz program at William Paterson University. During her time there, she was known as "the link" between the classical and the jazz departments, as she was performing with the WPU Big Band (alongside Joe Williams and Jane Ira Bloom) and the WPU Latin Band (Chico Mendoza) on the one hand and the New Jersey New Music Ensemble, the N.J. Percussion Ensemble (Ray DesRoches) and the Wayne Chamber Orchestra on the other. The four years she spent there led to some wonderful musical collaborations, some of which are still continuing with the likes of Norman Simmons, Armen Donelian and Horacee Arnold. While in school, Anat started composing in several styles, from contemporary (String Quartet No. 1) through incidental ("Our Town") to jazz. After graduating, she moved to New York and studied classical composition with Harold Seletsky (a former student of Joseph Schmidt) and improvisation with Paul Bley. In her writing, she brings all the "flavors" of her musical life together and the end-result is a unique style of contemporary-classically based compositions, with lots of room for improvisation and a middle-eastern vibe. Anat's first CD, "Peel" (all original compositions), came out in July 2001. In May 2000 she was commissioned to write a Piece for String orchestra and piano by the Chamber Orchestra Ramat-Gan in Israel that was successfully performed with Anat as the soloist in November 2000. The Anat Fort trio includes Gary Wang (T.S. Monk, Vincent Herring, Don Braden) on bass and Roland Schneider (Muhai Richard Abrahams, Kenny Wheeler, Joshua Redman) on drums. This Chinese/American, German and Israeli combo has been gaining much acclaim throughout performances in the New York Metropolitan area and in Israel. The diversity of its musicians, their backgrounds along with their creative open minds have been able to take Anat's music in many surprising directions, even for the composer herself...



Pianist **MARCEL WORMS** (1951) studied at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam with Hans Dercksen. After his graduation in 1987, he continued his studies with Alexandre Hrisanide and Hans Broekman, specialising in 20th Century piano music and in chamber music. On the occasion of the centenary (1992) of Darius Milhaud's birthday, Marcel Worms founded the Ensemble Polytonal, which Ensemble performed in an all-Milhaud program in Holland and France in that year. He premiered early piano works of Arnold Schoenberg in the Icebreaker, centre of modern music in Amsterdam. He performed the complete piano works of Leos Janáček (including a four-hand piece that he discovered in Brno). His programme Jazz in 20th-Century Piano Music launched in the 1992/93 Season was broadcast nation-wide by Dutch radio. It was subsequently released on CD by the Dutch label BVHAASST. As a result Marcel Worms was invited to play this programme in many European countries,

North America, Russia, South Africa and Indonesia. He launched this programme in New York and Washington DC in 1994 and returned to the US for recitals in 1995, 1996 and 1998.

In the Season 1994/95 Marcel Worms started a programme titled Mondrian and the music of his time to commemorate Mondrian's death, 50 years ago. Several composers, including Willem Breuker and Theo Loevendie had been commissioned to write for it. This programme was played in many European countries and the USA. About the concert in the National Gallery of Art in Washington the Washington Post wrote: "All this was virtuoso fare and Worms played it with joy, grace and, at times, humour that was contagious and captivating." In 1996 he played this program in the Hermitage Theatre in St.Petersburg, in the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. A CD of the program has been released for Emergo Classics.

A CD with the complete music for piano and wind instruments by Francis Poulenc has been released also on the label Emergo Classics. A CD with piano music by Jean Wiéner has been released in 1996 for the BVHAAST label.

His programme 'Blues for piano' to which many well-known Dutch composers contributed with a piece has been premiered in January 1997 at the BIMHUIS, jazz centre in Amsterdam. In the meantime more than 150 new Blues pieces have been composed for this project including pieces from around 35 different countries around the world. He played the programme at the Moscow Conservatory in 1997 and at the Conservatories of Beijing and Shanghai in 1998. In 1999 he played it at the North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague, in 2000 at the Festival of Flandria, in 2001 at the Warsaw Autumn Festival and in 2002 at the EU Jazz Festival in Mexico City.

In 2000 he played his Blues program in all the countries of the Balkan. Composers from all of these countries wrote a contribution for this tour.

In the 1998-1999 season the artist has focused on Vincent van Gogh and Pablo Picasso and their relation to music. Both projects have resulted in a CD recording.

Between 1998 and 2004 concerts have been given by Marcel Worms in many European countries, South-America, South-Africa, Israel, China, Cuba, the United States and the Far East.

The artist is a regular guest on Dutch radio.

In 2002 Marcel Worms focussed a.o. on the piano works of the Spanish composer Federico Mompou. A Tango program, which was performed a.o. in China and Argentina, resulted in a CD with Tangos for Piano in 2002.



Pianist **GALINA FIALKO** frequently performs both as soloist and ensemble player in the prestigious halls of St. Petersburg and on the major music festivals. She is much in demand as an accompanist and can be heard and seen regularly on St. Petersburg radio and television. She was born in St. Petersburg and started her pianistic studies at the Petersburg's Conservatory in 1978. She graduated cum laude with Professor P. Jegorov in 1983. Subsequently she specialized in chamber music with Professor T. Fiedler and concluded these studies in 1986. From 1992 onwards she was engaged as accompanist at the Lyceum of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, and after 2001 at the Rimsky-Korsakow Vocational School. She was chosen best accompanist at the Soviet Union Competition in Lwow 1980.



Pianist **PAUL PRENEN** studied piano with Jan Wijn and Edith Lateiner at the Sweelinck Conservatory Amsterdam where he graduated cum laude. Presently he divides his talents between the concert hall and the theatre: apart from his pianistic career he composes music for film and theatre. Thus he has arranged various operas for Frank Groothof, for Opera Trionfo, for the Combattimento Consort and composed music for the music-theatre productions of Gebroeders Flint and the former Werkteater as well as the Children's Theatre performances of O'ma Marée. Together with Sofie van Lier he made a recording of the songs of Bernard van Dieren (BVHaaast).

Pianist - composer **SIMON NABATOV** was born 1959 in Moscow, Russia. His musical education began at the age of 3, his father, himself a musician, being the first teacher. The Central School of Music and Moscow Conservatory were the next steps. After the whole family emigrated and settled in

New York in 1979, Nabatov continued his studies at the Juilliard School Of Music. By that time his interest and involvement in jazz and improvised music grew strong enough to make them his main activity.

Since then he performed and recorded with many fine musicians such as Paul Motion, Tony Scott, Sonny Fortune, Kenny Wheeler, Alan Skidmore, Herb Robertson, Louis Sclavis, Charles McPhearson, Billy Hart, David Murray, Paul Horn, Ricki Ford, Marty Ehrlich, Mark Dresser, Jim Snidero, Herb Geller, Dave Pike, Attila Zoller, Matthias Schubert, Barry Altschul, Vladimir Tarasov, John Betsch, Ed Schuller, Arto Tunçboyacı, Adam Nussbaum, Jay Clayton, Ron McClure, Mark Feldman, Drew Gress, Phil Minton, Michael Moore, Han Bennink, Misha Mengelberg, Wolter Wierbos and many others. He enjoyed continuous work with Ray Anderson Quartet, Arthur Blythe Quartet, NDR Big Band (Hamburg, Germany), Steve Lacy - Simon Nabatov Duo, Perry Robinson Quartet, Nils Wogram Quartet, Nils Wogram - Simon Nabatov Duo, Matthias Schubert Quartet, Matthias Schubert - Simon Nabatov Duo, Klaus König Orchestra.

His own projects and activities include solo recitals, trio with bassist Mark Helias and drummer Tom Rainey (both based in New York), quartet "Nature Morte" with the British vocalist Phil Minton, multi reed-player Frank Gratkowski and trombonist Nils Wogram (both from Germany), quintet including his trio plus the violinist Mark Feldman and the trumpet player Herb Robertson (both residing in New York). As the co-leader Nabatov plays duos with Nils Wogram, German tenor sax player Matthias Schubert, Dutch drummer Han Bennink and with the Dutch pianist Misha Mengelberg. Other activities as a co-leader include two recently formed trio collaborations: Nabatov - Reijseger - Vatcher and Nabatov - De Joode - Vatcher.

Simon Nabatov performed and recorded numerous pieces of chamber music, some of them written specially for him: "Piano Concerto "Baba" by the American pianist/composer Kenny Werner, "Sonata for violin and piano" by the Irish bassist/composer Ronan Guilfoyle, "Trumpet Sonata", "Cello Sonata", "Trio for flute, cello and piano" by the Swiss reed-player/composer Daniel Schnyder. He also performed and recorded some of the more known "crossover" works, such as "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin (NDR Symphony Orchestra Hannover, 1998) or "Concerto for Jazz Ensemble and Orchestra" by Rolf Liebermann (NDR Symphony Orchestra and Big Band, Hamburg, 1996).

Nabatov was among the winners of the 3rd "International Great Jazz Pianist Competition" in Jacksonville, USA (2nd prize) in 1985 and of the "Martial Solal International Jazz Piano Competition" in Paris, France (3rd prize) in 1989. In 1987 he was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Simon Nabatov made numerous radio productions for most major European broadcasting companies: WDR, NDR, HR, BR, SFR, Radio France, Radio Zürich, Radio Ireland etc.

A more recent and by far the largest radio production project (cosponsored by WDR and Bayer AG) saw him write and record over 6 hours of music for solo piano, duo (with the American reed player Michael Moore), his trio, the quartet "Nature Morte" and the quintet. Beginning of 2000 the Swiss label HatHut Records brought out the first recording - the trio release "Sneak Preview". The next three recordings, quartet "Nature Morte", quintet "The Master and Margarita" and solo "Perpetuum Immobile" have been released by Leo Records.

Simon Nabatov has taught at the Folkwang Hochschule, Essen (1989-1991) and at the International Jazz and Rock Academy, Remscheid (1991-1993), both in Germany. From 1998 to 2001 he taught at the Musikhochschule Luzern, Switzerland.

Since 1989 he resides predominantly in Cologne, Germany, but keeps an apartment and a part of his heart in New York.



ROBERTO HALIFFI, percussion. If anyone has a talent for world music it is Roberto Haliffi. Born in Tripoli, Libya in a family of Sephardic Jews, he fell in love with music at an early age. Influenced by any number of cultures all his life, he is a highly skilled African, Arabic, Latin and jazz drummer. Roberto loves the experiment, using traditional drums in a new setting. His own style is multi-faceted as well as oriental, subtle as well as powerful. He personifies global music.

Roberto started his music career in Tripoli, Libya, on the darbuka, an Arabic drum and trap set in folk bands. His uncle Bicio introduced him to the jazz bands he played with at the American military base and in nightclubs. He also had a pop band with his musician friends.

In 1967 he was forced to leave Tripoli and arrived in Milan, Italy at the age of 17. Since his family had

lost everything, he became a professional musician from the start. He soon met pianist Sonny Taylor, who inspired him to play Latin Jazz Funk music in their band MayaFra. Roberto was one of the first in Italy to play Latin percussion. Together with African conga player George Aghedo and the famous clarinetist Tony Scott, Roberto Haliffi soon recorded his own music. Then he was discovered by the famous Italian pop group PFM, who invited him to play percussion at their big stage concerts. Soon Roberto was asked to play percussion on numerous recordings of groups of all kinds.

Forever longing for new places, Roberto came to Holland in 1973. Far from home he renewed his interest in his Sephardic roots. He formed Klezmokum with jazz pianist Burton Greene, clarinetist Marcel Salomon, later replaced by the famous Perry Robinson, and tuba player Larry Fishkind. They perform Sephardic, Ashkenazi and Yiddish songs combined with jazz. With this successful band they play at many Jewish and jazz festivals in Holland and abroad (Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, New York) and have recorded four CDs so far. Roberto played jazz with Curtis Clark, Wilbur Little, Neddy Elstak, Woody Shaw and Pia Beck, funk with John Marshall, Rosa King, Hans Dulfer and Rinus Groeneveld, and worked for singers like Denise Jannah, Angela Groothuizen and Soesja Citroen. He is often invited abroad and has played in Switzerland with Gene Connors and Delta Rhythm Boys, in England with John Marshall, in France with Rosa King and Ingram Washington, in Spain with Pia Beck, and in New York with Essiet Okun Esiet, John Tchicai and Perry Robinson. He has recorded more than twenty albums and CDs and is working on two new ones.



MICHAEL VATCHER, (US/ NL) drums, percussion (12 /11/54 - California) played in California with John Handy, Vi Redd, and Terry Gibbs, etc. Since moving to Holland in 1981 he has been involved in many dance, theater, and musical projects; Theatre Group Amsterdam, Dog Troupe, Tom Varner Quartet, Pauline de Groot, Tristan Honsinger Sextet, Mathilde Santing, Maarten Altena - with featured guests; Anthony Braxton, Roscoe Mitchell, Guus Janssen, Frederick Rzewski - . Palinkx Quartet, John Zorn's Hsu Feng Project - with guests Bill Frisell, Steve Beresford, George Lewis - . Available Jelly, Georg Graewe, Franky Douglas, Fernando Lameirinhas, Zorn's "Spy vs Spy" featuring Mark Dresser and Joey Baron -, The Ex, The Ex Orchestra, Loos, Curtis Clark, Michiel Braam, Misha Mengelberg, Michael Moore. He is a regular dance accompanist for School for New Dance Development in Amsterdam. Cor Fuhler, Van Dyke Parks with Mondrian Strings, Maurice Horsthuis, Magpie -Music & Dance Company, Roof & 4 Walls. Trio Oliver - Barrett - Vatcher.; "Jewels & Binoculars"- the music of Bob Dylan. Trio Nabatov, Reijseger, Vatcher.

Information:



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