



Mark Whitfield & Ulf Wakenius Organ Quartet

Mark Whitfield (guitar), Ulf Wakenius (guitar), Alberto Marsico (orgue Hammond), Mourad Benhammou (drums)

“We all remember Wes !”



Two greats of jazz guitar: Ulf Wakenius and Mark Whitfield, absolute masters of their instrument and endowed with an impressive discography, come together in this project initiated by the San Javier festival, around the figure of the legendary guitarist Wes Montgomery, whose centenary of birth is being celebrated! "We All Remember Wes", the song composed by Stevie Wonder and popularized by George Benson, gives the title to this concert that recalls the famous trios of Wes Montgomery in his time on the Riverside label with organist Melvin Rhyne. An excellent setting for the virtuosity of Ulf Wakenius and Mark Whitfield on guitar.

MUSICIENS BIOGRAPHIES

Mark Whitfield (guitar) :



Mark Whitfield graduated from Boston's prestigious Berklee College of Music, the world's leading institution for the study of jazz and modern American music, in the spring of 1987. Shortly thereafter, he returned to his native New York to begin a career as a jazz guitarist that has allowed him to collaborate with legendary artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Quincy Jones, Ray Charles, Herbie Hancock, Carmen McRae, Gladys Knight, Burt Bacharach, Jimmy Smith, Clark Terry, Shirley Horn, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Joe Williams, Stanley Turrentine and his greatest teacher and mentor George Benson.

In 1990, The New York Times dubbed Whitfield "The Best Young Guitarist on the Jazz Scene." Later that year, Warner Bros. released his debut album, "The Marksman." The success of his first release led to a recording career that has produced a total of 14 solo recordings and a myriad of collaborations with some of the most important artists of recent years: Sting, Steven Tyler, D'Angelo, Mary J. Blige, John Mayer, Chaka Khan, Jill Scott, Diana Krall, Christian McBride, Chris Botti, Roy Hargrove, and Nicholas Payton.

Ulf Wakenius (guitar) :



Swedish guitarist **Ulf Wakenius** is one of today's world-renowned jazz guitarists.

Known as a member of the last Oscar Peterson Quartet between 1997 and 2007, following in the footsteps of Joe Pass, he was also a member of the Ray Brown Trio.

Wakenius' guitar duo, Guitars Unlimited, rocked Scandinavia in the early 1980s, culminating in the 1985 Melody Grand Prix, which was seen by 600 million viewers, probably the largest audience a jazz guitar duo has ever had. Shortly thereafter, Wakenius began a hugely successful and long-lasting collaboration with legendary bassist Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen. (NHOP), and his two albums with bass icon Ray Brown, topped the American jazz charts.

He has also performed and recorded with Pat Metheny, Herbie Hancock, Michael Brecker, Ray Brown, Jack DeJohnette, Jim Hall, Milt Jackson, Joe Henderson, Johnny Griffin, Benny Golson, Phil Woods, Clark Terry, Max Roach, Toots Thielemans, Michel Legrand, Kenny Kirkland, Hank Jones, Kenny Barron, James Moody, Jimmy Cobb, Bobby Hutcherson, Chris Potter, Bill Evans, Randy Brecker, Bob Berg, Mike Stern, Bireli Lagrene, Larry Coryell, Philip Catherine, Monica Zetterlund, Youn Sun No , Flora Purim, Airto Moreira, etc.

Quotes from guitar greats:

"He plays the guitar as if he was born with it in his hands" -[John McLaughlin](#).

"Simply brilliant!" -[Pat Metheny](#)

Mourad Benhammou (drums) :



Born in Paris, he discovered jazz at the age of 15. Always respectful of the heritage of the elders, he learned by listening to the masters (Elvin Jones in John Coltrane's quartet then hard bop drummers such as Philly Joe Jones).

In 1992, he began playing in Parisian clubs with, among others, René Urtreger, François Chassagnite, Michel Grailler, Jimmy Slide, Paul Bollenback. In 1995, he met Sunny Murray with whom he participated in work sessions that allowed him to explore more open styles such as free Jazz.

In 1996, he offered a tribute to Thelonious Monk with Alain Jean-Marie and Jean Bardy. At that time, he was also following in the footsteps of Sun Râ and formed the group "Interplanetary Music Orchestra", a 9-piece orchestra including Steve Potts, among others: this resulted in the release of his first album as leader in 1998.

In 1999, he joined David El Malek's quartet with Baptiste Trottignon (CD Café des Arts, 1998) and Raphaël Imbert's Nine Spirit nonet for a project in homage to the sacred music of Duke Ellington.

Passionate about the history of jazz, Mourad Benhammou left for the United States in 2004 where he began a series of interviews with legendary drummers from the bop scene. In New York, he met Louis Hayes, Grassella Oliphant and especially Walter Perkins who would become a mentor to him. From his meeting with Walter Perkins a new project was born, "Mourad Benhammou and the Jazzworkers", a quintet that he formed with Fabien Mary (trumpet), David Sauzay (saxophones and flute), Pierre Christophe (piano), and Fabien Marcoz (double bass).

With his playing deeply rooted in the Hard Bop tradition, he often works with some jazzmen who have left their mark on the music of this era: Barry Harris, Frank Morgan, Mandy Gaynes, James Spaulding, Joe Cohn, Hal Singer, Ricky Ford ... In France, he played with Maurice Vander, Alain Jean-Marie and regularly for almost 20 years with Fabien Mary, David Sauzay, Pierre Christophe, Hugo Lippi, Raphaël Imbert (Project "A love supreme").

In 2021, according to Jazz Magazine, he is "*one of the best current drummers in the field of bop and Hard Bop*".

Alberto Marsico (Hammond Organ) :



Alberto Marsico started playing the piano but soon turned to the Hammond organ under the direction of masters such as Jack Mc Duff (1994) and Shirley Scott (1996).

He enjoys all musical styles involving the Hammond organ and plays blues, soul, gospel and jazz at home. He has toured and recorded all over the world: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Bogota, Sydney, Singapore, Bangkok, Shanghai, Tokyo, London, Moscow, Oslo, Berlin, Brussels, Madrid, Paris, Amsterdam. He has given organ workshops and masterclasses throughout Europe in the most prestigious conservatories (Leipzig, Dresden, Enschede, Oslo, Naples).

He has played with Jimmy Cobb, Bobby Durham, Kenny Burrell, Ed Cherry, Peter Bernstein, Jimmy Witherspoon, Alvin Queen and Jesse Davis.

Alberto is featured on two Verve Records CDs, with Fabrizio Bosso and Jeremy Monteiro. He has also recorded six CDs as a leader and more than fifty as a sideman.

VIDEO LINKS

ST JAZZ SUR VIE FESTIVAL, may 18th 2024 : "We all remember Wes" Mark Whitfield, Ulf Wakenius, Alberto Marsico, Mourad Benhammou : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eg_AynsR56U

JAZZ TERRASSA : MARK WHITFIELD, CHRISTIAN ESCOUDE, ULF WIKENIUS, ALBERTO MARSICO :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8qExY3nLgk>

Others vidéos :

Mark Whitfield Trio "Live at Smalls" : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zH0pc8hN_o

Ulf Wakenius, solo : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E6mzjtDfpY>

Ulf Wakenius , "Giorgia on my mind", Jazz Baltica : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHg6C87TpgE>

The "We all remember Wes!" Project is touring in Europe!

Don't miss this great programming opportunity!

jazztimeprod@icloud.com / +33 6 82 23 86 82 / www.jazztimebooking.com