

Project Name: It's Hard to Be Bop

Baseline: Energetic originals with a touch of tradition

Repertoire: Original compositions and arrangements

Influences: Freddie Hubbard, Barry Harris, Hank Mobley, Lee Morgan,...

Musicians: Nicolas Drici (trumpet), Julien Delbrouck (alto saxophone), Quinten De Craeker (trombone), Mathieu De Wit (piano), Julien Fraipont (double bass, composition and arrangement) and Jonathan Taylor (drums).

Short Bio:

The simplicity and energy of Hardbop brings joy and straightforward pleasure. But behind this false simplicity hides complexity, a lot of nuances and a great musicianship. Playing this style requires rigor and sincerity from a musician.

In his 15-year career as a jazz musician, Julien has never found these characteristics united in a single project and centralized around this style which fascinates him so much. In addition, very interested in harmony and different composition techniques, he began to compose, strongly inspired by the big names of this rich period in jazz history.

With its project "It's Hard to Be Bop", the JF6 likes to give once again a podium to this ever so revolutionary style, with original, fresh and energetic compositions, all by Julien Fraipont.

Long Bio:

While listening to a Hardbop album, it's difficult not to feel a shock, a violence, an energy that touches us directly and deeply. An almost paralyzing facade that would be a shame to stop at. The complexity, the nuances, the harmony, the melodies make this music an extraordinary listening moment.

It is from this observation that the double bass player and composer Julien Fraipont created "It's Hard to Be Bop". With this project and his compositions, he pays homage to this rich period in the history of jazz.

Very interested in harmony and in the different composition techniques, he began to write, strongly inspired by greats such as Sonny Clark, Freddie Hubbard, Hank Mobley or Lee Morgan, Wayne Shorter and Cedar Walton.

The project will take shape in a sextet, with for the wind section Nicolas Drici on trumpet, Julien Delbrouck on alto saxophone and flute and Quinten De Craeker on trombone. For the rhythm section, Julien will be accompanied by Mathieu De Wit on piano and Jonathan Taylor on drums. The result is a melodious, energetic and authentic repertoire but above all with rugged edges.

Julien Fraipont's bio

It is in 2004 that Julien discovers the pleasure of music with the electric bass. He then crosses paths with Francis Winandy, his first music and instrument teacher. Important encounter for him, since it will make him discover the reality of music and especially JAZZ.

He will continue to take lessons with Francis Winandy, as well as at the academy Marcel Désiron with Phillipe Doyen for 2 years.

He then completes the full program (theory and instrument) at the Jazz Studio in Antwerp, where he will graduate in 2010. He there studies the electric bass for 3 years and finishes the program on upright bass. This means a radical and permanent change of instrument for him. During this period, he takes classes with Bas Cooijmans, Jeremy Calbert, Bo Waterschoot, Richard Rousselet, Laurent Mercier, among many others.

In the course of these 4 years, he also meets 3 musicians who will open his ear and especially his view on music. Second important encounter for him: that with Augusto Pirodda, Marek Patman and Manolo Cabras.

After finishing the Jazz Studio, Julien continues to perfect his skills on the double bass with Manolo Cabras.

In 2015 - after several years of jam sessions in Belgium, mainly in Brussels - he establishes his first "real" project, the Julien Fraipont Quintet. In this project, he's sharing the stage with Aristide Agostino, Mathieu Najean, Mathieu De Wit and Gaspard Sicx. It is for this project that he takes on a second role, that of the composer. He will record his first EP at this time.

From 2016 to 2018, Julien, among others with his quintet, will perform on various Belgian stages such as Yellow Time Jazz Festival, Brussels Jazz weekend, Gouvy Jazz festival and many others as well as in many Brussels clubs.

In parallel with all this, Julien gives lessons in various Belgian schools and academies. In 2018, he resumed lessons at the Maastricht conservatory in order to perfect his training.

Stay tuned...