

SASHA PUSHKIN

pianist composer improviser

www.sashapushkin.com

www.youtube.com/sashapushkin



„The pianist, Sasha Pushkin, in his performance, equalled that of the great improvisers; at times, his playing even made one think of Keith Jarrett. He demonstrated mastery of his field, with playfulness and perfection. Within the very first moments, he had captivated his audience, evidenced by the eruption of applause.“ (Freie Presse)

Sasha was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. He began studying classical piano at age seven; by age eight, he had performed his first concert of original compositions. By the age of 22, he had played for audiences of ten thousand people in St. Petersburg and Kiev. Since the early nineties, Mr. Pushkin has been a regular on the European circuit. He is based in Berlin, Germany.

His mother was a music teacher and when the two-year old Sasha became too noisy she used to put Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninov on to keep him quiet. Is that why his music sometimes reminds of Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky? But it can also evoke Gershwin or Bartok, Satie or Chopin, Jerry Lee Lewis or Keith Jarrett. Some people like to compare. You can just listen and decide for yourself (if you need to). You can expect melodic and rhythmic improvisations or atonal harmony, use of unusual objects and prepared piano sound.... Each performance is absolutely unique and unpredictable. And it can go one way and end up somewhere else anytime... For a cross-over musician, any area is a source for the creative process. Sasha also researches in the fields of Indian classical music and philosophy, involving methods of traditional meditation and concentration forms.

He is the creator of his own musical doctrine, called “Exprovisation”. This word comes from a Latin word “Exprompt” and from the words “Experimental” and “Improvisation”. Exprovisation is an improvisation with form, creating a full composition directly in the moment. And without any musical style-limitation.

Except solo concerts in jazz clubs, concert halls, cinemas, castles and churches Mr. Pushkin has performed in a large variety of venues and contexts. He performed for the film release of “Gate to Heaven” and in the “Hermitage Theater” and “Mariinsky Theater” of St. Petersburg, and at numerous music festivals, including SKIF, Tollwood festival, Karneval der Kulturen, Fusion, Mooving Cultures, Movement, New Culture fest, Art Ovrag, Allo Showman and Musiques Volantes.

Pushkin is known as an extremely flexible and open-minded musician. He has an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approach that involves regular collaborations in the fields of modern dance, multi-media, art and literature. He is also active as a band leader and composer for films. He played with Tony Levin (Chapman stick), Markus Reuter (Touch guitar), Fun Da Mental, Bi2, Blechreiz, Barbara Buchholz and Lydia Kavina (Theremin), Sergey Ietov, Nikolay Rubanov and Kurt Buschmann (Sax), Sainkho, Namgar, Angela Manukyan, Sasha Lurje and Ofrin (voice), Souleymane Toure (perc.) Ali Keyta (Balafon), Mimetic (Electronics), Yuko Kaseki (buto) and Emi Hariyama (Ballet), Tim Motzer and Omar Tomez (Guitar), Yatziv Kaspi (Tabla), Aydar Gaynullin (Bajan), Dr.Motte (Dj), Django Lassi, Dr.Bajan, Apparatschik, Kriwi, Zam Johnson, Alessandra Celetti and many others.

Live Sountracking

In his performances accompanying silent films Sasha uses elements of retro piano styles like Rag Time, Boogie or Swing and fuses them into something modern and experimental. He has performed music for such films as the German black & white classic "Berlin: Symphony of a Great City", Russian classic cartoon "Nu Pogodi" and "Aelita, queen of Mars" Sasha has also started a new art of silent movie music, performing with the more contemporary colour and sound film "Koyaanisqatsi", replacing the Phillip Glass score with his own spontaneously composed live music and performs with piano and electronics for German cult film "Tuvalu"

Playing with Art

Another of Sasha's special projects involves improvising music in gallery environments alongside art objects, graphics, paintings and sculptures. Performances in this field to date include improvisations to works by Gino Masharelli, Frank Tornow, Hans Schimanski, Andre Sofin, Marina Gertsovskaya, Frank Lassak and André Wagner. In this case the images or sculptures are the source of inspiration for the free composed music.

International experience: Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Romania, Poland...

Press: Die Welt, Berliner Morgenpost, Zitty, Tip, Folk-Michel, Berliner Zeitung, TAZ, BZ, Volker, Tagesspiegel, Berliner Abendblatt, Intro, Guide, Freie Presse, Jazzthetik, Vogue, Hi Fi Music, Camden New Journal...

Radio: WDR 5, WDR Funkhaus Europa, SFB 4 Multi Kulti, Radio Brandenburg, Kiss FM, MDR Sputnik, Deutschland Radio, Radio Kultur, RBB, NDR Radio Globo, Hessische Rundfunk, KSFR Santa Fe Community radio, ALL FM 96.9, BBC, ...

TV: NTV, ORB, OKB, SFB, RBB, DW, KULTURA, A1...

