

off&out



Leandra Wiesli - vocals

Leandra Wiesli discovered her passion for the stage at an early age. She cannot remember a time "before" the music. Singing has always been a part of the 29-year-old's life. After years of singing lessons and working in the school band, she was a choir member in the musical Space Dream - the original from 2010 to 2011. Small appearances followed at weddings, vernissages or funeral ceremonies. For several years she has been involved in the musical association Flawil, where she has played Morticia Addams from The Addams Family or Violet Newstead from 9 to 5 - The Musical. Since 2019 she has been regularly accompanied by jazz pianist Urs C. Eigenmann. Together they founded the band PASSONA at the end of 2020.

www.leandrawiesli.ch



Michael Neff - trumpet, flugelhorn

Michael Neff grew up on a farm in the Appenzellerland. He became enthusiastic about music at an early age and has played the trumpet since his youth - first in a brass band and in a groovy funk band, together with school colleagues. He discovered jazz at the St. Gallen Jazz School, where he studied trumpet and jazz improvisation with the main subject teachers Bernhard Schoch and Lester Menezes. After completing his professional studies in 2000, he was awarded the sponsorship prize of the Cultural Foundation of the Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden. This enabled him to spend six months in New York with classes with Eddie Henderson, Cecil Bridgewater and Mike Le Donne! He also attended various jazz improvisation workshops with Michel Matthieu, Randy Brecker, Adrian Mears, Jiggs Wigham, Wayne Bergeron and other inspiring artists. In 2008 he received another grant from the Ausserrhodische Kulturstiftung. This enabled him to spend a composition semester abroad with saxophonist/composer Andy Middleton at the Konservatorium Wien. Since 2000 he has been leading his own band "Michael Neff Group" and plays in many different projects.

www.michael-neff.ch



Ekkehard Sassenhausen - tenor sax

Born in Germany, settled in Switzerland over 25 years.
Professional Reed player with Performance Master from Cologne.
Studies in classical Music and Jazz. The last couple of years studying Indian Music.
Playing all Kinds of Saxophones and Bassclarinet.
Background is modern Jazz, Improvisation, modern classical European Music, Music for Meditation. Actual involved in a project called Nandighosha, a Fusion from classical Indian Music and Jazz.
Principal of the music school Uster Greifensee in Switzerland.



Uli Binetsch - trombone

The sought-after German trombonist and pianist Uli Binetsch can also offer a never-ending biography. He is not only active in the border triangle (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). He has made a name for himself with various bands, orchestras and music productions far beyond this region. Meanwhile he is on the road worldwide in the fields of jazz, rock, pop and classical music. Whether as bandleader, soloist, arranger or as sideman and lecturer. He started with classical piano lessons, then was pianist and keyboarder in various jazz rock formations and later trombonist in the Jazz Big Band Ulm. He studied trombone for five years at the Vorarlberg/Austria State Conservatory, majoring in trombone with Prof. Mag. J. Amann, has been a teacher at the Jazz-Seminar Dornbirn/Austria since 1986 and was a member of the "Bregenzer Festspiel Choir" for a while, was a member of the Symphonieorchester der Internationalen Musiktheatertage Bregenz (Wagner - Zyklus) in 1988 and, and, and... Uli Binetsch has played with countless great music makers such as Paz Luaces, Jose Luiz Cortez, Gregor Gonzales (Irakere), Mariagrazia Pistan (solo harpist Volksoper Wien, Wiener Symphoniker), the Jam Factory Big Band with Peter Herbolzheimer, Peter Madsen (piano, pianist of the Mingus Big Band New York, more than fifty CD's with Fred Wesley, MaceoParker, Stan Getz, Joe Lovano, Kenny Garrett, Randy Brecker, Stanley Turrentine and others), the Jam Factory Big Band with Peter Herbolzheimer, the Mingus Big Band New York, the Mingus Big Band New York and the Mingus Big Band New York.the Dani Felber Big Band, the "New York SKA Jazz Ensemble" and many more. In 2010 he won the "Swiss Jazz Award" with the Dani Felber Concert Jazz Big Band.

www.uli-binetsch.de



Alex Steiner - guitar

teaches guitar and choral singing as a diploma music teacher in the region of St.Gallen. He is trained at the Jazz Scool St.Gallen. It plays with the well-known band "Red Cube" and in other various other groups, as well as with Simon Johnson's "Bluesonix" and as a studio musician.

www.facebook.com/alex.steiner.5203



Urs C. Eigenmann - keys

Urs is mainly a self-taught musician. However, he did study at the Jass Scool Graz (A) and Bern (CH). In 1967, he established the Urs Carl Eigenmann-Trio, a true Blues band. Shortly after, in 1968, he formed the legendary band off&out. With this band, Urs played many concerts, among others, several times at the Jazzfestival Zürich. In addition, Urs formed the band Umamaca with which he performed at the Open Air St. Gallen, in 1985.Urs has also been a successful composer. Two of his major works include the commissioned work Open Opera (1993), as well as the total work of art Alli Zäme (1998).In 2008, he initiated the international festival Jazzin which he has been organizing 3/3 regularly.„The list of musicians who were part of off&out is long and impressive. And by the way, but not to forget: Urs C. Eigenmann made real Swiss Jazz history. It cannot be another 50 years, but as long as this „fellow“ exists, we can expect a lot more of off&out – and we are looking forward to it!“, wrote the journalist Richard Butz.

www.eigenmannurs.com



Benjamin “Pneu” Leumann - bass

Beni Leumann is a versatile electric bass player who feels equally at home with jazz, funk, pop and rock music. Whether live or in the studio. At the moment you can find him mainly with the band Private Blend in Eastern Switzerland, which has several singles with regular airplays on Radio Top, Radio Swiss Pop and others. He also played in many pop, rock, funk, Latin and jazz bands, such as Superjam, off&out, with the Rorschach and Arbon town bands, in musical projects with the Romanshorn gospel choir and the Gaiserwald music school. He completed his education at the Hochschule Luzern Musik (Jazzschule Luzern) and teaches at several music schools in the canton of Thurgau. Especially in the context of current productions, he impresses with his experience in various bands and styles with broad expertise and authenticity.



Andy Leumann - drums

After his studies at the Swiss Jazzschool in Bern with Billie Brooks Andy starts his career as professional drummer 1978 at the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF. 1980 he meets for the first time the Pianist U.C. Eigenmann in his band off&out. With the bass player and singer Pino Buoro almost plays at the same time in the formations Infra Steff and Soul Set. All three meet each other for the first time in Eigenmann's Band Umamaca.

www.andyleumann.com

