

Human Touch

Human Touch is an elevatingly innovative instrumental trio based in Athens, Greece. Their sound carries the nuances of their Greek, Irish, American and Cypriot backgrounds and is a personal hybrid of universal soul.

Between them they have played with Arturo Sandoval, Trilok Gurtu, Billy Cobham, Arild Anderson, Milcho Leviev, Davy Spillane, The Temptations, Barry White, The Camerata String Orchestra and others. They have played in several international jazz and ethnic festivals in Europe, the U.S., Turkey and the Balkans and have influenced whole generations of instrumentalists in Greece. Their unique multi-instrumental approach effectively projects Human Touch's limitless palette of rhythm, color and emotional depth.

Human Touch's music is "lived" music. Each concert is its own experience and leaves its audiences uplifted and moved within. It's no wonder they have been called "The Best Kept Musical Secret in the Balkans".

David Lynch- saxophones, flutes, whistles, voice, percussion

Yiotis Kiourtsoglou- electric basses, percussion

Stavros Lantsias- piano, keyboards, drums, percussion, melodica



"Kind of Blues"

"Kind of Blues" from Niksic (Montenegro) and the band consists of: - Zoran Cele Cetkovic (drum) - musician with many years of experience and performances at many famous jazz and blues genres. Also a member of the Mediterranean Magazine Orchestra, Piva Jazz Band, etc. - Milorad Sule Jovovic (klav / git) - a famous jazz guitarist and pianist, a participant in many European and international festivals, including 'Made in New York Jazzfest'. Founder of "Piva Jazz" band. - Zdenko Dejo Pekić (bass) - also a longtime musician, played in regional bands, among others "Eighte Force" and "Leonardo". He has been studying in recent years. - Edwin Maksuti (guitar) - the youngest member of the band with the experience of playing 15 years. Various performances at club gigs and jam sessions as well as experience in study work.



Ermal Rodi Quintet

This group is composed of relatively young, but talented and dedicated musicians in the Jazz music genre. The project, which will be presented for the first time in the Balkan Jazz Showcase event, is a stylistic interplay between the new mainstream Balkan feel in jazz form. The music composed by saxophonist Ermal Rodi clearly shows his musical experience with different musicians from all over the world in styles of: be bop, funk, pop, electronic, etno etc.

Ermal Rodi-Saxophones, cornet, kavall

Endrit Fusha-piano & keys

Roni Lingo-electric bass & double bass

Kejdi Barbullushi-guitar

Besian Herri-Drums



"Jazz Ensemble UniArt "

This orchestra performs its activity as part of the curriculum at the Music Faculty. It has been several years since it was created, and has given several concerts with great success in Tirana. This group consists of young musicians, students of the Faculty of Music. It is conducted by the pedagogue of Jazz music Gent Rushi, and with the pedagogue of modern percussion Emiljan Dhimo. Some of the members of the "Jazz Ensemble" UniArt have been and are part of several international projects.

SaNiTi, workshop and tour concerts with young musicians from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania. supported by "Ryco"

Jain, intercultural dialogue, workshops and concerts with young musicians from Serbia, Albania, Italy. Part of the "Creative EU" projects.

Band Leader

Gent Rushi

Jazz Music Pedagogue



28th of April 2019

Jazz Meeting
AJS Opening Concert

🇦🇱 "AJS Trio" - Albania

29th of April 2019

🇲🇪 "Kind of Blues Band" - Montenegro

🇬🇷 "Human Touch Trio" - Greece

30th of April 2019

🇦🇱 "Jazz - The Ensemble of the University of Arts" - Albania

🇲🇰 "Saso Popovski Trio" - North Macedonia

🇦🇱 "Ermal Rodi Quintet" - Albania

🇷🇸 "Jazztheria Band" - Serbia

“Saso Popovski Trio”

The music of Saso Popovski is music of pure lines, concluded structures and lush imagination.

Rhythmically and also melodically, his music alludes to Oriental patterns, which makes it a bit mystical.

But there is nothing hermetically in it, as some of these kind of music excursions to Orient can be... Popovski organizes his compositions around a beautifully derived, clear, appealing melodious line, which is unmistakably supported by a bass player with a velvet sound and a drummer with consistent, concentrated rhythmization. Popovski finely enhance the basic river-like melody, carefully meanders through its possible by-paths and streams, but never loses the basic thread. With its strong suggestiveness - thanks to the repetitiveness of certain motifs - Popovski's music has dreamlike and cinematic effects. One another thing to be stressed is the coherence of members' musicianship and the very sound of trio - which is smoothed and crystal clear, but at the same time it does not work artificially; instead, it is completely organic and "present". — Mario Baletic Cerkno Jazz Festival



“AJS Trio”

AJS Trio is the most popular band of Jazz musicians from Albania. They have been playing together for 10 years. Jointed ideas and experiences of these artists makes their performance and sound very interesting. The AJS Trio's music has a wide range of interwoven styles, all of which come with the colors of contemporary Balkan Jazz.

AJS Trio has established the first organization of Jazz Albanian musicians. They organize each year "Balkan Jazz ShowCase" with the participation of musicians from across the Balkans and beyond.

These musicians make a very valuable contribution to Jazz in Albania as well as teaching, being part of the academic staff of the University of Arts in Tirana. Supporting young musicians inside and outside the school by making part of their projects. AJS Trio is co-organizer of the SaNiTi project, dedicated entirely to young musicians in cooperation with Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Albania.

Gent Rushi e-piano / Ermal Rodi sax&flute / Emiljan Dhimo drums



JAZZOTHERIA

The band "kafe ball" was founded at 2008, having their first performances at the international art exhibition in the centre of nish. In the same year, the band performed at the well-known jazz festival "nisville" accompanying dado topic.

In 2010 the band had another performance at "nisville" on gate stage in nish. This year will be remembered, too as the year of the band's first cd. "kafe ball in c", produced by the "biveco", ljubljana-belgrade recording studio.

2011 the band performed in bulgaria, on famous european jazz festival in town bansko, being at the point the only representatives of the republic of serbia! They made a significant success, praised by both in the same year, the band performed in lazarevac and nish at the festival "kulturno leto" {culture in summer}, where they were very successful, being promoted by the maljokovic brothers, famous serbian jazz musicians! The band got praised too by the audience as well as the festival founders.

2012 brought along three performances one at the 29th. Nisville, in the centre of nish, and two in two towns nearby nish, pirot on main stage in the centre, and leskovac at the festival "culture in summer", having been announced as the etno-jazz bend.

2013/ 2014/2016 .nisville festival, "kafe ball" performed with pride on main stage!

"kafe ball" performs various of music, such as a combination of the latino and the balcan rhythms and jazz harmonies mixed with the balcan passionate music. Though they are the authors of their music, they performed as a cover band, too. They also play cover music of famous latino pieces and famous jazz classical compositions. And lately, they have been performing in clubs all over serbia.

2016. bend "kafe ball. Changes its name to " jazzotheria" band!



BALKAN JAZZ SHOW CASE 2019

TIRANA, II EDITION

28 & 29 & 30 April

19:30 – 22:00



Celebrating "International Jazz Day" with different Balkan Jazz Bands who will perform in a tribute to the Jazz music.

ROGNER HOTEL
—TIRANA—

