

MOLA SYLLA

Dakar – Senegal

Living in Amsterdam

Written / Composer / Performer / Lead vocals / Instrumentalis

Plays African instruments as m'bir, kongoma, xalam

Limitless, that is the best way to describe singer and instrumentalist Mola Sylla. He is many ways a musical explorer. From North to South people can identify with his music. Sometime alone, but much more frequently with leading colleagues from all musical corners. Musicians who do not hesitate to beaten paths to depart and dare to improvise. Mola Sylla Was born and raised in Dakar, Senegal. He grew up in the tradition of the griots. Griots play conveying stories – sometime decorated with music, theater and dance – an important role in the culture in West Africa. For his songs – mostly in Wolof. He draws from this rich African narrative tradition.

His first band Senemali brought him the late 80's to Europe. Since then, Amsterdam is the base for his musical quest. A journey that leads us to many genres and styles, but always with a recognizable own sound. His musical improvisation ability makes him a popular musician in different formations.

Mola Sylla is primarily a composer and vocalist. His rhythm and melodic compositions differ from the western agreed schedules and provide surprising twists. As a "voice artist", he touch people. But he is also on the instrumental level in many markets at home. With his – sometimes hand-made – traditional instruments he create a unique sound. Everything he touches turns into music !

<http://www.molasylla.nl/index.php>

HARMEN FRAANJE

According to the North Sea Jazz Festival Harmen Fraanje can be counted among the most prominent jazz pianists of the Netherlands. In just under ten years' time, he has built an impressive musical career, the end of which is nowhere in sight. Fraanje's music has many layers. His musical muses are many, as are the numerous collaborative efforts he has undertaken. He is able to surprise with a true musical kaleidoscope of jazz, world and classical music.

Not surprising that his name is connected with a number of trend-setting groups, such as that of Eric Vloeimans or American saxophonist Michael Moore. Fraanje's most recent project consists of his Avalonia trio, with whom he released the album Avalonia last year. The internationally acclaimed website AllAboutJazz selected a performance by this trio as one of the best concerts of 2010. In the same breath as grandmasters like John Scofield, Brad Mehldau and Bill Frisell, no less."

During his tireless quest for creativity collaborations and new horizons, performing with musicians like Kenny Wheeler, Michael Moore, Mark Turner, Igor Roma, Cristina Branco, and flute-giant Magic Malik.

At the moment Harmen is performing a lot with the trio Reijseger Fraanje Sylla, "creating an authentic sound and a unique character; a humorous, generous world where an outpouring of improvisational brilliance is guided by a fearfully dedicated technique."

Besides that Harmen will record his first solo album in October 2012 in the beautiful Rainbow Studio in Oslo.

Recently Dutch guitarist Anton Goudsmit and Harmen formed a new group with German bass clarinet player Rudi Mahall and drummer Samuel Rohrer from Switzerland. The release of their debut album is expected in 2013. And then there is the group Par 4 Chemins with French drummer Toma Gouband and bassist Brice Soniano.

So far this group released two albums for the French label Cristal Records; the latest album 1RDR features flute player Magic Malik.

In spring 2013 Par 4 Chemins will record a new album with music suggested by circle compositions, mostly composed by Toma.

As sideman Harmen is playing in the Norwegian Mats Eilertsen Trio, the Michael Moore Quartet and the Clemens van der Feen Band.

Harmen is teaching at the Amsterdam Conservatory.

"Harmen Fraanje is emerging as one of the most impressive young European pianists of the past decade."

AllAboutJazz

<http://harmenfraanje.nl/>

ERNST REIJSEGER

has been at the forefront of free improvisation and world music for over three decades

Cellist and composer Ernst Reijseger (1954) plays the cello from the age of seven and began as a performing cellist and improviser in 1969.

Many of Reijseger's collaborations cannot be classified into genres. He writes for and improvises with musicians and ensembles of different musical disciplines and nationalities. He gives solo recitals, performing his own music.

Reijseger coöperated with Sean Bergin, Derek Bailey, Trilok Gurtu, Yo Yo Ma, Franco d' Andrea, Louis Sclavis, Simon Nabatov, Mola Sylla, Maria Pia de Vito, Uri Caine, Harmen Fraanje, Luciano Biondini, Michel Godard, and cellist Giovanni Sollima.

In 1985 Reijseger was awarded with the Boy Edgar prize (Dutch prize for jazz and improvised music).

In 1995 he received the Bird Award from the North Sea Jazz Festival.

Reijseger collaborates with the Sardinian vocal group Tenore e Concordu de Orosei. With them an Senegalese singer Mola Sylla he performs a concert version of the music for the films by Werner Herzog. The title of this performance and the cd is 'Requiem for a Dying Planet'. For the Amsterdamse Cello Biënnale 2010 Reijseger worked with 140 young cellists, who eventually assembled in one orchestra, the Mega Kinder Cello Orkest. On the island 'La Réunion' Reijseger met the group Groove Lélé. This accidental encounter has led to a close friendship and a musical collaboration. They recorded the album 'Zembrocal Musical' (Winter&Winter).

The cd 'Zembrocal Musical' received the French prize 'Trophée des Arts Afro Carabiéen' for 'Best album 2010'. Groove Lélé & Reijseger were also nominated for 'Best Group 2010'.

Reijseger wrote music for and played solo with the Metropool Orkest in a project about the film music of Ennio Morricone, in partnership with composer/arranger Martin Fondse.

In Porto (Portugal, 2008) Reijseger worked closely together for three months with dancer Antonio Tavares and filmmaker Tiago Periera on the project 'Aniki in da House'. For the occasion of the 100th birthday of cineaste Manoel de Oliveira they made a dance-music-video-performance with children from similar areas in which the film 'Aniki Bobo' took place around 1942. Reijseger led a group of 90 young cellists.

Ernst Reijseger creates music for film and documentary. Since 2004 he wrote music to four films and a 3D documentary by cineaste Werner Herzog: 'The White Diamond', 'The Wild Blue Yonder', 'Rescue Dawn', 'My Son My Son What Have Ye Done' and 'Cave of Forgotten Dreams', soundtracks of which were published by Winter&Winter.

At the moment Ernst is performing a lot with pianist Harmen Fraanje and singer Mola Sylla from Senegal. In February 2013 the German label Winter & Winter will release their debut album Down Deep.