



JAZZ WITH THE PETSTEPPERS

ΩΡΑ / TIME : 20:30
ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΑ / TICKETS: €18, €8

Τετάρτη, 8 Οκτωβρίου - Αρχαίο Ωδείο Πάφου
Wednesday, October 8 - Ancient Odeon, Pafos

Πέμπτη, 9 Οκτωβρίου - Δημοτικό Θέατρο Λασιών, Λευκωσία
Thursday, October 9 - Latsia Municipal Theatre, Nicosia

Παρασκευή 10 Οκτωβρίου - Θέατρο Ριάττο, Λεμεσός
Friday, October 10 - Rialto Theatre, Limassol

ΓΕΝΙΚΕΣ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ / GENERAL INFORMATION :
7777745, 25878744, 22800933

THE PETSTEPPERS

The Petsteppers is a relatively newly formed band based in Nicosia, Cyprus. The initial idea for the band which stemmed from its founding members was to become a power trio combining the polyrhythmic sounds of Ioannis Vafeas on drums, the virtuosic capabilities of Michael Messios on bass and the ferocious sound of Charis Ioannou on saxophone. With the addition of Marios Toumbas on keyboards, the band took a whole new form that settled into a fusion of sounds that include straight ahead jazz, Afro-Cuban rhythms, and other complex rhythms from the modern jazz era. The repertoire of the band is mainly original music composed by the players. None the less, the band also performs tunes written by jazz legends such as Michael Brecker, Chick Corea, and Cedar Walton among others. Listening to the band, one can appreciate the fluent and dexterous ways with which Ioannis lays down the groove, and also the clever ideas with which he builds up his solos around complicated tune forms. On the bottom end, Michael holds a solid rhythmic and harmonic ground from which everything else branches off. He has a very unique way of playing his six-string bass and thus enabling him to become an inimitable soloist, handling changes in the music with tremendous ease. Marios, who is a very well respected pianist around Cyprus and Greece, not to mention collaborations with artists from the USA, always finds ways to enrich the music either through his beautiful voicings or through his impressive solos which have a very climactic nature that is always effortless and natural. Last but not least, Charis uses his lyrical sound to clearly articulate the melodies of all the tunes. The motific style he incorporates in his improvisations clearly reflects his jazz background and influences from legendary players. The Petsteppers perform weekly in Lefkosia, on Monday nights at Lotofagoi bar and also appear in other major clubs around the island. The band has recently released its first album.



MICHAEL MESSIOS

Michael Messios was born in Limassol, Cyprus. He started taking music lessons at the age of fourteen. In 1988 he was selected to be a member of the national army band where he explored different styles of music and performed with a number of well known Greek artists. In 1995 he received a scholarship from Berklee College of Music in Boston where he went for studies in jazz performance, jazz composition and orchestration. While in Boston, Michael took private lessons with Charlie Banacos, Jerry Bergonzi, Oscar Stagnaro, Bruce Gertz and performed with bands around the Boston area. In 1998 he returned back to Cyprus where he is currently working as a professional musician at the studio and in live performances. Michael is a member of the bands Petsteppers, Symmetry, Fata Morgana. In the studio he works as an orchestrator, composer and producer. Some of his projects include the album releases of well known Cypriot artists such as Charis Detis, Nikolas Ntimas and Ifigenia. Michael is also composing, arranging and performing music with the jazz-fusion band Petsteppers.

IOANNIS VAFEAS

Ioannis was born in Limassol, Cyprus in 1970. Being the son of a professional drummer (Aristos Vafeas) he picked up drums at a very early age. During his high school years he studied drums, piano and saxophone. After his graduation he joined the army to become a member of the military band. Two years later Ioannis was accepted at Berklee College from where he graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor's Degree. In 1996 he joined the cooperative jazz master's program of The Boston Conservatory and Berklee College of Music. Ever since he has been an active musician and has been performing and teaching in Cyprus and abroad. As a sideman he has worked (live/studio) with Johnny Logan, The Moscow Symphony, George Dalaras, Christos Thiveos, Michalis Hadzigiannis, Miltos Paschalides, Maria Farantouri, Margarita Zorpalla, Costas Macedonas among



others. He has been a member of the group Mosthe who represented Cyprus at the Biennale festival in Rome. He is also a member of the Koulis Theodorou ethnic group. The last couple of years Ioannis is performing Jazz Fusion with various artists both locally and from abroad. He is also a founding member of the Jazz Fusion band The Petsteppers that are currently releasing their first CD.

CHARIS IOANNOU

Charis Ioannou was born in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1976. At the age of eight he started piano lessons and later picked up the saxophone at the age of fourteen. After graduating from high school he went on to do his military service, where he served his country as a sergeant in the military band playing tenor saxophone. In 1997 Charis was enrolled at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied saxophone performance and Jazz composition. Charis won the Woodwind Achievement Award in the last year of his studies in Boston and in 2001, after graduation, he moved to New York where he stayed for three years. While in New York, Charis earned his Masters degree in performance from the New York University and in the meantime performed and taught around the state. The collaboration with Rick Parker led to the CD release of Rick Parker Collective – New York Gravity on the Fresh Sound Label where Charis plays tenor and soprano saxophones as well as doubling on bass clarinet. Charis left from the United States in 2005 and moved back to Cyprus. The return to his home country found Charis collaborating with various musicians. Charis is now a member of many local bands, including The Petsteppers, Uptown Beat, Kyproyenia and The Cyprus Big Band (musical director) with which he performs around the island and in other countries (Greece, Serbia, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Germany). Charis is also composing and recording original music and teaches the saxophone and the jazz idiom at the island's leading colleges as well as privately.



OMRI MOR

Pianist Omri Mor, born 1983, started playing at the age of 7, and was soon attracted to many various styles of music. He began studying classical music under the guidance of Prof. Benjamin Oren and Dr. Assaf Zohar, and jazz piano with Prof. Slava Ganelin and saxophone legend and educator Arnie Lawrance. He has been the winner of the highest scholarship given by Israel-America music foundation five times in a row. Omri performs with major Israeli jazz artists such as Avishai Cohen (bass), Avishai Cohen (trumpet), Omer Avital, Eli Degibri and many others, and has cooperated with international artists like Marlon Browden, Marcus Baylor, Philip Harper, Keon Harold, J.D. Allen, Jay Rodriguez, Marc Miralta, Raynald Colom and more. In addition, he has played with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and with the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra. He plays regularly in jazz festivals in Israel and abroad, and has lately performed with Israeli rock artists Berry Sacharof and Micha Shitrit, as well as with ethnic artists and groups such as the Magreb Orchestra (led by Nino Biton), the Israeli Andalus Orchestra and paytans Chaim Look and Lior Elmelich. Omri's musical repertoire ranges from classical music and jazz, to Latin and afro-cuban music. In the past few years he became deeply interested in North-African Andalus music, following his participation in numerous projects with the Magreb Orchestra. It is not surprising that his playing combines elements from a wide variety of styles and genres. Omri can be heard on the "Omer Avital – Marlon Browden Project" CD (available from FRESH SOUND label), Daniel Zamir's "Amen", Rea Bar Ness' "Remember and Forget" and Alon Farber/Chagiga's upcoming CD "Optimistic View".

