



PAOLO FRESU

An alternative Biography

*Fresu is one of those musicians who come from time to time
to remind us why jazz is so special and unique"*

(Buenos Aires Herald)

The village marching band and the most important international awards, the Sardinian countryside and the albums, discovering jazz and his many collaborations, his love of small things and Paris. There are not many people capable of putting together such a diverse array of elements and turn it into such an incredible and fast stylistic growth. Paolo Fresu succeeded in a country like Italy where, for too long, jazz was famous just like Shakespeare or Matisse paintings, Armstrong was little more than a freak show and Miles Davis was acknowledged well after his creative peak. The magic lies in the spontaneous way in which he managed to convey the deepest meanings and magic of his native land with the most precious of the arts. At this stage of his successful and long career there is no need to list recordings, awards and experiences that have made Fresu an international star, his music loved by many. Inside his trumpet sound runs the sap that has illuminated the European jazz nouvelle vague, the depth of a thought that doesn't limit itself to music, his generosity that sees him in the right place at the right time and most of all the unending passion that always leads him.

Being an omnivorous artist Paolo is currently busy on many projects. Apart from a literary side which has brought some very interesting works and being honored with the important honoris causa degree in Social Psychology at Università Bicocca of Milano and another of New York's noble Berklee School of Music nowadays Fresu is working with his historical quintet which has been together for 40 years of full activity and reciprocal understanding, his Devil quartet, which follows on the success of the Angel quartet that gave Paolo early international exposure some 15 years ago or his new trio with two young lions of contemporary national jazz such as Dino Rubino and Marco Bardoscia or finally the surprising "Heroes," a tribute-project to David Bowie where he collaborates with the established names of Petra Magoni and Christian Meyer and with some of the most prominent of the Italian new wave jazz scene such as Francesco Diodati, Francesco Ponticelli and Filippo Vignato.

Not to be forgotten are important international collaborations such as the successful duo partnership with Uri Caine, or the great names of Carla Bley, Steve Swallow or Ralph Towner, which bridged the entry of Paolo's name into the entourage of the celebrated ECM label, for which other notable record works were released.

His present time sees him active, in a more foreign perspective, in a trio with Richard Galliano and the Swedish pianist Jan Lundgren ("Mare Nostrum") and in several new adventures with important names of the contemporary jazz entourage such as Omar Sosa, Trilok Gurtu, Lars Danielsson, Eivind Aarset, or Arild Andersen. Interesting are then the projects with some big names of the Italian literary and theatrical world (Mariangela Gualtieri, Ascanio Celestini, Lella Costa, Stefano Benni, Alessandro Bergonzoni, Giuseppe Battiston), the frequentation of the theatrical world itself as first interpreter thanks to the works produced by the Teatro Stabile di Bolzano among which the great success of the play "Tempo di Chet" (dedicated to Chat Baker) or "Tango Macondo" as well as, finally, a new series of small but important collaborations with the "intelligent" music of the Italian popular bangs or electronics. Music for Cinema and "special projects" such as his extraordinary theatrical "a solo" close the circle together with the little big and crazy adventure that led him to celebrate in 2011 his 50th birthday with 50 concerts, in 50 consecutive days, with 50 different formations and projects from day to day in 50 masterpieces of his Sardinian landscape. Not to be outdone also the beautiful project dedicated to his important 60th birthday, thanks to Bologna that has become, like Paris, one of his places of reference. There are also some interesting collaborations with some great names of the Italian theatre and literature world (Ascanio Celestini, Lella Costa, Stefano Benni, Alessandro Bergonzoni) besides a small new series of collaborations with the 'intelligent' part of Italian popular music. Music for cinema, and special projects like his "a solo" (trumpet solo and electronics) that mesmerized 3000 people at the Rome Auditorium or the Metastasio Theatre in Prato, all of this with the crazy great adventure that brought Paolo in 2001 to celebrate his 50th birthday performing 50 concerts in 50 consecutive days, each with a different line up and each with a different beautiful Sardinian landscape as backdrop.

It would be a mistake to neglect the attention towards the classical music world that is generating nice surprises with works that involve orchestral ensemble that manage to look forward and heroes of the avant-garde or also Paolo's new challenge to promote young lions of contemporary jazz through the possibilities offered them by the new label Tük Music, founded to look to the future and has now become an international benchmark as well.

Paolo Fresu's official Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL59WzwyjYD758WMzs0O8Jnd4EJXD5G8is>