



PAOLO FRESU

An alternative Biography

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, Italy in 2013, nowadays Fresu is working with his historical quintet which has been together for 30 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.

His contemporary collaborations are also increasing. Some of these include the duo with Uri Caine, teaming up with Carla Bley and Steve Swallow and the successful meeting with Ralph Towner which started Paolo relationship with Ecm. Ecm eventually released the wonderful album *Mistico Mediterraneo* with Daniele Di Bonaventura and the polyphonic Corsican choir *A Filetta* and the duo record with Di Bonaventura.

There is a fresh collaboration with Richard Galliano and Swedish pianist Jan Lundgren (*Mare Nostrum*) and several new adventures with some key names of the international contemporary jazz scene such as Omar Sosa, Gianluca Petrella, Manu Katché, Eivind Aarset, Dave Douglas, Oren Marshall, and Arild Andersen.

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, Milena Vukotic) besides a new small series of collaborations with the 'intelligent' part of Italian popular music. Music for cinema, and special projects like his a solo 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.