

## **RAFFAELE CASARANO**

### **NEW QUARTET**

#### ***“Oltremare”***

**Raffaele Casarano** (sax and direction); **Eric Legnini** (piano, Fender Rhodes, Synth);

**Lars Danielsson** (cello, double bass, live electronics); **Manu Katché** (drums)

<https://youtu.be/FzPhRbxY7ss>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKxFKtrKi9Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKyq7iLEYaA>

Raffaele Casarano starts a new stage of his career more mature and international. And he made that with a new and important musical adventure, a worldwide band and a new disc, “Oltremare”, coming in 2018 for Paolo Fresu Tùk Music. With him: Manu Katché, Lars Danielsson and Eric Legnini.

Casarano lays the groundwork for a different musical research, which sinks directly into the soul of the musicians themselves, into the roots of gospel Africa and into Soul music. Beloved sonority to Casarano, back from six African tours during which he was able to collaborate with several musicians from Zimbabwe and South Africa. Experiences that have left important nuances in Raffaele's style and his approach to the new repertoire.

The energetic and strongly spiritual presence of Manu Katché, the intertwining with the northern European music of Lars Danielsson and Eric Legnini and the Mediterranean jazz of Raffaele Casarano allowed the birth of the music of this new quartet and of the album. A journey that will involve mind and body between the smoky and warm blues, the liquid and rarefied landscapes of Northern Europe and the sunny colors of Southern Italy.

## **SHORT BIO**

### **Raffaele Casarano**

Saxophonist, artistic director and creator of one of the most important national jazz festivals - Locomotive in Salento - Raffaele Casarano is considered among the most talented and well-known performers of the Italian New Jazz Generation, flagship of the creative Tùk Music directed by Paolo Fresu.

Among his collaborations, besides the one already mentioned with Paolo Fresu, we find: Buena Vista Social Club, Javier Girotto, Lincoln Goines, Mark Soskin, Gianluca Petrella, Ensemble Notte Della Taranta, Negramaro, Moni Ovadia, Marian Serban, Après La Classe, Donpasta, Eugenio Finardi, Paola Turci, Manu Katché, Erik Honoré and many others. He has played in clubs and festivals throughout much of the world. His experience is a tribute to music without borders and labels, mixing different musical languages with taste and elegance, in perfect balance between the tradition of jazz and the contaminations of rock and electronics. All this with solid and strong roots of Salento, a land that is always present and "cultivated", so as to make it "grow to the maximum from the artistic point of view".

### **Eric Legnini**

The son of Italian immigrant artists in Belgium, Eric Legnini started playing piano at the age of 6, approaching jazz only during adolescence. At the end of the 80s he decided to go to the United States to study and immerse himself in American jazz sounds. After two years he returned as a jazz piano teacher at the Conservatory of Music in Brussels, where he met Jacques Pelzer. The result was Pelzer's album Never Let Me Go, in which there are the participation of Barney Wilen and Michel Graillier.

At the beginning of the 90s he began a fruitful collaboration with Stefano Di Battista. Together and with the addition of Flavio Boltro to the trumpet, they will form the important Éric Legnini Trio, with whom Legnini has managed to capture the attention and establish himself



on the international scene. He has played with artists such as Aldo Romano, Belmondo Quintet, John Ruocco, Félix Simtaine, Michel Hatzigeorgiou, Dré Pallemarts, Emanuele Cisi, Toninho Horta, Philip Catherine, Serge Reggiani, Hein van de Geyn, Marcia Maria, Jacques Pelzer, André Ceccarelli, Éric Le Lann, Paco Sery and others.

### **Lars Danielsson**

Bassist, cellist, composer and arranger Swedish, Lars Danielsson is recognized and admired throughout the international jazz world for his lyrics, his groovy incisive and for a very wide musical vision. He initially studied classical cello at the conservatory in Gothenburg and then turned his interests to bass and jazz. Lars Danielsson has a characteristic and particularly round way of playing as a bassist, both lyrical and powerful, that leaves you breathless during each performance.

He founded the "Lars Danielsson Quartet", formed together with saxophonist David Liebman (a student of Miles Davis), pianist Bobo Stenson and the legendary ECM label drummer Jon Christensen, a group that during the 18 years of its existence, received many prestigious awards and numerous awards. Starting in 1980, the quartet released 10 albums, with the participation of Alex Acuna and John Abercrombie. The group was also a testing ground for Danielsson's work as a composer and arranger, which has expanded over the years to include collaborations for the Symphony Orchestra and the Big Band.

He also worked as a composer, arranger and was the producer of Cecilie Norby, Viktoria Tolstoy and the Danish Radiophonic Orchestra. He has collaborated with leading musicians such as Randy and Michael Brecker, John Scofield, Chsrles Lloyd, Terry Lyne Carrington and Dave Kikosky, and has also been a member of the "Trilok Gurtu Group".

From the meeting with the Polish pianist Leszek Modzer was born the album Pasodoble, published by the German record company Act, a work in which methodicity and tradition are perfectly interpenetrated and where the most diverse musical reminiscences converge in synthesis always new, constantly looking for unpublished balances.

### **Manu Katché**

Manu Katché is one of the most famous French musicians in the world. Long alongside Peter Gabriel, he has participated in the recordings and tours of some of the most important rock musicians such as Tori Amos, Sting, Dire Straits, Pink Floyd, Rick Wright, Joe Satriani, Joni Mitchell, Jan Garbarek. He recorded the drum parts in the album Oltre (1990) by Claudio Baglioni, Come l'acqua (1992) by Mango, Do not trample the flowers in the desert (1995) by Pino Daniele and Napoli Trip (2016) by Stefano Bollani. Its drum style is distinguished by a particularly rich use of "splash" dishes, which often Katché uses in sequence of sixteenth or thirty-second with particular taste and wisdom. In collaboration with YAMAHA, he designed three snares, including the first in a limited edition, made of 5 1/2 and 6 1/2 deep brass: Limited Edition 14x5 1/2 SD 455MK 14x5 1/2 SD 465MK 14x6 1/2 Plus, endorser Yamaha, he plays on Recording Custom and Rock Tour Custom drums and collaborates with Zildjian shooting a video demo of the dishes of the latter producer.