

PAOLO FRESU QUINTET

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PAOLO FRESU: trumpet & flügelhorn

TINO TRACANNA: tenor and soprano sax

ROBERTO CIPELLI: piano and Fender Rhodes electric piano

ATTILIO ZANCHI: double bass

ETTORE FIORAVANTI: drums

REPENS

The new project of Paolo Fresu's historic quintet honors 40 years of common collaboration with a tribute to jazz improvisation, the prime mover of the freedom of this musical art.

The Quintet reaches the milestone of 40 years proving to be one of the historical groups of European jazz and perhaps the most long-lived one as it is still formed, even today, by the same five musicians who created it back in 1984: Paolo Fresu, Roberto Cipelli, Tino Tracanna, Attilio Zanchi and Ettore Fioravanti.

Repens is "Repentino" (sudden, abrupt) and improvised but above all horizontally upright as the path of the "Italian Quintet" (as the French still call it) that has managed, thanks to friendship and respect as well as creativity and passion, to overcome the obstacles of the four decades spent together and to live the present with the same momentum as ever. (Paolo Fresu)

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PAOLO FRESU's quintet was founded in 1984 by Paolo Fresu and Roberto Cipelli and today is rightfully part of the history of modern Italian jazz, celebrating - with the same original line-up - forty years of existence, which is very rare in the entire history of Afro-American music. After various forms it becomes today's group at the turn of 1984-1985 with the recording of 'Ostinato' for Splasc(h) Records, and it consecrates itself as one of the leading groups of Italian jazz with the record 'Inner Voices' together with American saxophonist Dave Liebman (1986). Since then, it has carried out an intense concert and recording activity as well as teaching. In fact, the group often acts as a 'teaching group' that shapes interactive Seminars on jazz styles and structures as seen from within the group experience (Nuoro Seminars, Victoria School of Arts in Melbourne, Matera). Important and unique then, in this regard, was the extraordinary experience of the "Five Days of Jazz" held during the 2005/2006 winter season at the Monteverdi Hall of the Bolzano Conservatory of Music and in collaboration with the Culture Department of the local Autonomous Province. A book with accompanying DVD was later published from the experience for Auditorium Editions in Milan.

All elements of the lineup have precise and important teaching experiences that are still ongoing: Roberto Cipelli holds the chair of jazz piano at the Conservatory of Trento where he is also department head as well as since 2014, director of the Jazz Seminars in Nuoro. Attilio Zanchi and Tino Tracanna hold the chair of Jazz Music at the Milan Conservatory, while Ettore Fioravanti is of the same chair at the Frosinone Conservatory.

Several projects have also seen the quintet participate in multimedia experiences between jazz and other arts (Theater, Cinema, Poetry and Dance). In 1990 the group won the <Top jazz> prize from the specialized magazine 'Musica jazz' as the best group in Italian jazz and as the best record (<Arrigo Polillo Prize> record 'Live in

Montpellier'), and every year they are at the top with their own record productions. Worth mentioning is a mention by the American magazine 'Cadence' which, in 1985 indicated 'Ostinato' as one of the most interesting records of the year. The project 'Concerto Piccolo - Suite in 7 Appointments for Large Orchestra and Small Group' is the work that consecrates the first ten years of the Quintet's life through the group's compositions revisited and arranged by Maestro Bruno Tommaso for String Orchestra and Big Band, presented in Matera, Roccella Jonica and Berchidda at the same time as the release of the eighth CD published by Splasc(h) Records, entitled 'Ensalada Mistica'. Often the group takes the form of Sextet (since 1991 on 'Ossi di Seppia') with the presence of the multi-instrumentalist Gianluigi Trovesi who naturally also takes part in the CD 'Ensalada Mistica' or since 1996 with the Belgian saxophonist Erwin Vann, with whom 'Wanderlust' was recorded for the French Bmg/Rca.

The group has given concerts in the most important cities and festivals both Italian and foreign on every continent, often recording for International Radio and Television. The record 'Night on the City' recorded for the French Owl won the 'Choc' award for the year 1995 from the French specialized magazine 'Jazzman' and earned Paolo Fresu awards from the Academie du Jazz' in Paris and the prestigious 'Django d'Or' as the best jazz musician in Europe.

The book '49 Compositions' also collects the group's entire repertoire recorded for the Splasc(h) Record label. Almost celebrating its 20th year of activity, 2004 was an 'important' year for the quintet: a series of recordings for Blue Note (cadenced until 2008) celebrated its creativity, freshness and longevity.

However, we have reached an important new milestone: that of 40 years of joint activity! We keep checking and looking for confirmations, but there really does not seem to be a similar example in the entire history of modern jazz: no quintet has made it to forty years of living together with the same original lineup! In order to approach the various important birthdays, the quintet released in 2010 (as the first issue of Paolo's brand-new record label) a double work that set genuine sales records and renewed interest-especially international interest-around this extraordinary combo of genius musicians. Then, in 2014 The newest chapter is called instead i30! obvious reference to the three decades of art in common.

Finally, in 2024, forty birthdays are celebrated with a brand-new record work entitled "Repens." It would have been easy to release a classic "best" or "Greatest hit" as it may be, and instead Paolo chose the most correct jazz adventure in the form of free improvisation capable once again of testifying to the quality and artistic depth of this formation.

Long live this incredible formation! Many say, "Paolo has so many incredible projects but ... the quintet always remains the quintet!"