

# Rafael Jerjen Press-kit



## Biography- Short (ENG)

Rafael Jerjen is a nationally and internationally recognised bass player, composer and educator. Born in Basel, Switzerland, Jerjen moved to Australia with his family at age six. After the completion of a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance (Honours) at the Australian National University under bassist Eric Ajaye, Rafael returned to Europe in 2013. Having worked for a year in Berlin, he moved to Switzerland to complete a Master of Arts in Jazz Performance and Composition at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU) with bassist, Heiri Kaenzig. More recently, Rafael was appointed Prof. Kenzig's successor, as lecturer for Jazz double Bass at the HSLU.

Rafael plays with numerous formations based in Europe and leads his own projects, The Rafael Jerjen Concept and MaxMantis, with whom he has toured extensively in South America, Australia and Europe. He is an active composer and arranger, constantly writing new material for his own projects as well as responding to commissions, e.g., the Australian Young Composers Award – WAYJO (2017).

Rafael has had the privilege of recording and sharing the stage with many musicians and groups including: Mike Moreno, Bill Cunliffe, Joe Labarbera, Bob McChesney, Bob Sheppard, Andy Sheppard, Jim Hart, Nelson Veras, VEIN, Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra, Nils Wogram, Gileno Santana, Michael Arbenz, Kristen Berardi, Matt McMahon and many more.

Jerjen rounds off his musical life as a music educator both on tour and in Switzerland. He is also a research assistant and bass expert for Prof. Senn's "Groove Team", spending his time in transit between concert venues transcribing some of the greatest bass lines of all time for the purposes of better understanding what makes us want to move to music.

## Biography- Kurz (DE)

Rafael Jerjen ist ein national und international anerkannter Kontrabassist, Komponist. Geboren in Basel (Schweiz), wanderte Jerjen im Alter von sechs Jahren mit seiner Familie nach Australien aus. Nach dem Abschluss seines Bachelor Studiums in Jazzmusik an der Australian National University bei Bassist Eric Ajaye aus LA, kehrte Rafael 2013 nach Europa zurück.

Nachdem er ein Jahr in Berlin gearbeitet hat, landete er wieder in der Schweiz, wo er seinen Master of Arts in Jazz Performance an der Hochschule Luzern (HSLU) bei Bassist Heiri Kaenzig abschließt. Zudem studierte Jerjen Komposition mit dem renommierten BigBand und large ensemble Experte Ed Partyka. Seit 2022 ist Jerjen, als Nachfolger von Prof. Kaenzig, als Bass Dozent an der Hochschule Luzern tätig.

Rafael spielt mit zahlreichen Formationen in ganz Europa und leitet mit *The Rafael Jerjen Concept* sein eigenes Projekt, am bekanntesten ist er aber wahrscheinlich für seine Arbeit mit dem hochgelobten, von ihm co-gegründeten, Schweizer Trio *MaxMantis*.

Zusätzlich zu seinen laufenden Auftritten in renommierten Clubs und Festivals weltweit, ist Jerjen ein aktiver Komponist/Arrangeur, stets dabei, neuen Stoff für seine eigenen

Projekte und externe Aufträge zu schreiben. So mit wurde ihm auch beispielsweise den *Australian Young Composers Award 2017* zugesprochen, wo er für das *West Australien Youth Jazz Orchestra*, mehrere neue werke schrieb.

Bereits jetzt schon hatte Rafael das Privileg, zusammen mit vielen bekannten Musikern auf der Bühne zu stehen oder gemeinsam aufzunehmen so wie, Mike Moreno, Bill Cunliffe, Joe Labarbera, Bob McChesney, Bob Sheppard, Andy Sheppard, Jim Hart, Nelson Veras, VEIN, Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra, Nils Wogram, Gileno Santana, Michael Arbenz, Murmullo, Florian Arbenz- Convergence, David Tixier Trio, Matt McMahon, Kristen Berardi und viele mehr.

Jerjen rundet sein musikalisches Wirken als Musiklehrer, sowohl in verschiedenen Musikschulen in der Schweiz und in Form von Workshops an Konservatorien auf Tour, ab. Sein Reisezeit zwischen Konzertorte in verschiedenen Ländern verbringt er oft mit dem Aufschlüsseln von weltbekannten Basslines die er als wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter für das Forschungsprojekt "How Drums and Bass Create Groove" von Prof. Senns Team an der Hochschule Luzern, transkribiert.

## **Biography- Long (ENG)**

Justin DiCioccio (Manhattan school of Music, NYC) once said to me:

"To have a career in music, you must first have a life in music. Then, and only then, might you get the chance of having a career in music."

So that's what I set out to do...

With a burgeoning international career, Rafael Jerjen is a bass player, composer and educator. Currently based in Lucerne, he was educated in Australia (Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance (Honours) at the Australian National University under bassist Eric Ajaye), the USA (New York with John Patitucci), Berlin, and Switzerland (Master of Arts in Jazz Performance at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Lucerne with bassist, Heiri Kaenzig). Rafael also studied composition with renowned composer and big band leader, Ed Partyka.

### **Performer, composer and arranger:**

Active as a composer, arranger and bandleader, Rafael leads the Rafael Jerjen Concept and MaxMantis, and has toured extensively in South America, Australia and Europe.

His creative output has won awards and he has recorded and shared the stage with some of the biggest names in jazz in Europe, the USA and Australasia, including: Mike Moreno, Bill Cunliffe, Joe Labarbera, Bob McChesney, Bob Sheppard, Andy Sheppard, Jim Hart, Nelson Veras, VEIN, Nils Wogram, Gileno Santana, Michael Arbenz, Murmullo, Florian Arbenz - Convergence, David Tixier Trio, Matt McMahon, Kristen Berardi and the Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra.

### **Educator:**

A passionate educator, recently Rafael succeeded his former professor, Heiri Kaenzig, as lecturer for jazz bass at the Lucerne University of applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU), and

has represented the HSLU at the renowned International Association of schools of Jazz (IASJ) run by Dave Liebmann.

As well as individual lessons Rafael leads ensembles and has worked with university students at Newpark Music Centre Dublin, University of Tasmania, Australian National University, Australian Institute, to name a few.

### **Researcher:**

Rafael Jerjen rounds of his musical life by delving into the inner workings of “Groove” research at HSLU in Lucerne. As a research assistant and bass expert for Prof. Senn’s “Groove Team”, he spends his time in transit between concert venues transcribing some of the greatest bass lines of all time for the purposes of better understanding what makes us all want to move to music.

## **Prizes & Awards**

2020 - Freedman Jazz Award (Finalist), Australian Music Trust (AUS)  
2019 - Audience Award ZKB Jazz prize 2019 with trio MaxMantis (CH)  
2017 – National Emerging Jazz Composers Prize: composer-in-residence at the West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (AUS)  
2015 – Represented HSLU at the International Associations of Schools of Jazz (IASJ) (PRT)  
2015 – Hirschmann Stipendium (CH)  
2014 – Friedl-Wald Award (CH)  
2013 – Masters of Arts (full scholarship): Performance degree at the Hochschule Luzern (CH)  
2013 – Keep an Eye on Summer Jazz workshop in Amsterdam (full scholarship) (NETH)  
2012 – JUMP mentorship with Grammy-winning pianist Bill Cunliffe (USA).

## **Discography**

### **As a leader or co-leader:**

MaxMantis‘ BLUE (MaxMantis Records, 2022)  
MaxMantis‘ GREEN (MaxMantis Records, 2018)  
MaxMantis‘ PINK (MaxMantis Records, 2016)  
The Rafael Jerjen Concept: Tricept (Laika Records, 2015)  
The Rafael Jerjen Concept: Soul Station Return (Laika Records, 2015)  
The Rafael Jerjen Concept: Chrysanthemum (2011)  
The Rafael Jerjen Quartet: Change (2009)

### **As a sideman:**

Arbenz, Postma, Barradas, Jerjen: Conversation no. 5 (Hammer Recordings, 2022)  
Florian Arbenz‘ Convergence (Hammer Recordings, 2020)  
Murmulo: Lies (Antidro Records, 2020)  
Ramon Clau‘ Take Your Time (2019)  
Spacetracker: The Journey (Unit, 2019)  
Die Abmahnung: Red Carpet (Unit, 2019)  
David Tixier Trio: Universal Citizen (Neuklang, 2018)  
Nolan Quinn Quintet: Soothin‘ (Rhinoceros Records, 2018)

Cinzia Catania: Anatomy of a Melancholy (Unit, 2018)  
HSLU Big Band: Celebrating George Grunz (2016)  
Murmullo: Murmullo (QFTF, 2015)  
Druckmittel Mittelmaas (Hausmaster Records, 2015)  
Lukas Gernet's Reconception: Les Nuits Melan (TCB, 2015)  
Ufem Wäg: Stuberein (2015)  
Movement 9 (2014)