

BIOGRAPHY JASPER SOMSEN



Dutch double bassist, composer and producer Jasper Somsen (1973) graduated in both Jazz and Classical double bass. He is an open minded versatile musician. Best known as a Jazz musician his field of interest and expertise also includes cross overs to classical, pop, world, film music and theater productions.

Jasper has collaborated with some of the very best musicians on the international jazz scene including Peter Erskine, Enrico Pieranunzi, Joey Calderazzo, Jeff Ballard, John Beasley, Jean-Michel Pilc, Eric Marienthal, Bob Sheppard, Seamus Blake, Jorge Rossy, Kendrick Scott, Justin Faulkner, André Ceccarelli, Gary Husband, Gabriele Mirabassi and Paolo Fresu. Besides a performer and composer, Jasper Somsen is a Challenge Records artist and a renowned studio producer.

Challenge Records releases, as a (co-)leader:

Jasper Somsen – “Invites Anton Goudsmit” (expected Feb. 2025)
Jan Gunnar Hoff/Jasper Somsen/Carsten Lindholm – “Northwest” (2024)
Jasper Somsen/Enrico Pieranunzi/Gabriele Mirabassi – “Traveller’s Ways” (2024)
Jasper Somsen – “Invites Paul van der Feen & Bert van den Brink” (2023)
John Helliwell – Jasper Somsen: “Don’t Ever Leave Me” (2022)
Enrico Pieranunzi & Jasper Somsen: “Voyage In Time” (2022)
Enrico Pieranunzi/Jasper Somsen/Jorge Rossy: “Common View” (2020)
Jasper Somsen Trio, feat. Jean-Michel Pilc and André Ceccarelli: “A New Episode In Life, part I” (2017)
Jasper Somsen Trio, feat. Jean-Michel Pilc and André Ceccarelli: “A New Episode In Life, part II” (2017)
Jasper Somsen Group: “Sardegna” (2013)
Jasper Somsen Group: “Dreams, Thoughts & Poetry” (The Music of Enrico Pieranunzi – 2010)

With the Portuguese Jazz and Fado vocalist Maria Mendes he won the Dutch EDISON AWARD 2020 (Jazz/World Music) and was four times nominated for both the American and Latin GRAMMY, in 2020, 2021, 2023 and 2024.

Jasper performs world wide and can be heard on approx. 50 albums, video and film music scores.

Outside a busy playing and studio producing schedule he is an educator at the ArtEZ University of the Arts, Arnhem (NL) and the general director of the foundation Cultural City of Wageningen, in his hometown.

MEDIA QUOTES

Somsen's features a punchy dancing tone while never losing the questing feel or dancing emotions the whole journey suggests.

The New York City Jazz Record (USA)

Jasper's soaring lyricism and deep swing places him among today's finest European double bassists.

Larry Abrams (USA)

Bassist Somsen's his bass lines swinging flawlessly.

Arts Journal (USA)

Somsen's bass solo probes the lines with creativity and respect ... one brings a smile to your face.

Notes On Jazz (USA)

Somsen proves that he is a composer par excellence.

SKJazz (Slovakia)

Somsen's poetic melodies seem to float.

Trouw (NL)

Somsen his expertise is in tonal purity and a full sound. He caresses the sound as it journeys into an inner consciousness of imagination.

Marlbank (UK)

Somsen displays outstanding technique and melodic sense.

Jazz History Online (USA)

Jasper Somsen creates his spherical Jazz micro cosmos carefully and precise.

MultiKulti Project (POL)

Somsen playing both rhythmically and harmonically the right tones at the right place.

Jazzpodium (GER)

Seemingly effortless he actively responds and counters new ideas with his trademark for sensibility and lyricism.

Donata van de Ven (NL)