



"The quartett around the lebanese singer Rabih Lahoud plays the most exciting ethno-jazz on german concert stages these days." *Jury TFF Rudolstadt 07/2015*

## Masaa **مسا**

Masaa combines Arabic poetry with contemporary Jazz, East and West enter a lyrical liason unheard of before in its cocnclusiveness. This groundbreaking concept can be heard on several records: Freedom Dance (2012), Afkar (2014) and Outspoken (2017). Masaa has been awarded the Bremer Jazzpreis in 2012 as well as the audience award of Creole in 2013 and the Förder-RUTH of the Rudolstadt-Festival in 2015. Right from the start the ensemble has made an effort to carry their work out into the world: Masaa performed successfully in Eastern Africa and Lahoud's homeland Lebanon. In 2015 the quartet teamed up with Israeli singer Yael Deckelbaum and sent out a sign to support the peace process between Jewish and Arabic culture.

Since 2019 Masaa reinvented their sound and personnel. Instead of the pianist Clemens Christian Poetzsch masaa has the extraordinarily versatile player of the double-neck acoustic guitar Reentko Dirks on board .

Constantly exploring new sounds of the acoustic guitar Reentko and his unique style Reentko is moving freely between Classical, Pop and World Music and shapes the new sound of Masaa. Together they released in february 2020 their first album in this new formation "Irade", which was nominated for the german record label award. In march the won the cultural price "Kulturpreis Nord-West".

### Find out more:

Website: [www.masaa-music.com](http://www.masaa-music.com)

youtube-channel: [www.youtube.com/masaaband](http://www.youtube.com/masaaband)

„It sounds like musical freedom, stylistic diversity and cultural boundlessness and is of rarity difficult to estimate."

*Folkworld 03/2018*

« Especially one thing the musicians have in common: their strive for a perfect musical combination, an odd harmony which moves people.»

*Süddeutsche Zeitung 09/2018*

"A very cool album with some moments of heartbreaking beauty. Highly Recommended." *Wondering sounds 04/2014, New York (U.S.)*



### **RABIH LAHOUD, vocals**

studied classical piano, composition, classical vocals, and jazz vocals. He feels at home in both Western and Eastern music traditions, the latter due to his Arabian roots. This ambivalence adds to the charm of the confluence of musical styles. He formed the band "Eternal Voyage" with Markus Stockhausen, and together they released a CD in 2009 and performed together in the Cologne Concert Hall as well as many other venues. He teaches at the music college of Düsseldorf and Hamburg.

### **MARCUS RUST, trumpet**

discovered a personal interest in foreign cultures on a trip to India while he was performing his compulsory community service. Since then he follows the path of combining traditional musical elements of different cultures with jazz. Next to Masaa he performs with the band of the ethiopian singer Feven Yoseph, and with his duo ZIA. The musicians of ZIA focus on combining jazz and traditional music of a variety of cultures with jazz with church organ and trumpet.

### **REENTKO DIRKS, guitar**

has written and recorded music for artists of the Cirque du Soleil as well as the Semper Opera Dresden and is a member of the EUROPEAN GUITAR QUARTET. Reentko has been introduced to a large audience as the guitar player alongside Giora Feidman and played concerts at the Tchaikovsky Hall Moscow and the Carbegie Hall New York.

### **DEMIAN KAPPENSTEIN, drums**

Demian Kappenstein, percussion released his first solo album WEIT a suite for percus- sion, electronics and photography about travels to Mozambik, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, India, Lebanon and Taiwan. Next to a common drum set his instrumentarium consists of found junk objects as well as manipulated childrens toys and household objects. Next to Masaa he is touring with his duo "Ätna".

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### **xklang booking**

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