

EYJO 08

The German bandleader and composer **Niels Klein** will lead the EYJO 08.

Every year since 1998 the Danish based organisation Swinging Europe, has taken to the road and toured with the band. Each year a new conductor, new compositions and a new line-up of handpicked musicians meet for a three-week concert tour in Europe.

The jazz producers of the public radio stations in several European and North American countries exclusively handpick the musicians, aged 18-30. This selection guarantees the highest quality among the soloists and big band players. This will be the fourth year that the world wide network of Jazz Producers of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) will be collaborating with the organization. The project is partly financed by The European Union.

Further info: www.swinging-europe.dk

Musicians of the EYJO 08

Lead Trumpet: Christoph Moschberger - **Germany**

Trumpet: Eivind Nordseth Lønning - **Norway**

Trumpet: Konstantins Jemeljanovs - **Latvia**

Trumpet: Kalevi Louhivuori - **Finland**

Lead Alto Saxophone: Tara Davidson - **Canada**

Alto Saxophone: Petr Kalfus - **Czech Republic**

Tenor Saxophone: Kristian Brink - **Sweden**

Tenor Saxophone: Jure Pukl - **Slovenia**

Baritone Saxophone: Kasper Wagner - **Denmark**

Trombone: Fidel Fourneyron - **France**

Trombone: Andreas Tschopp - **Switzerland**

Trombone: Antonis Andreou - **Greece**

Bass Trombone: Bernhard Neumaier - **Austria**

Guitar: Quentin Liégois - **Belgium**

Piano: Alexandru Racovitza - **Romania**

Bass: Robert Landfermann - **Germany**

Drums: Matt Jacobson - **Ireland**



Christoph Moschberger, Germany



Tara Davidson, Canada

The tour of EYJO 08

Tue. April 22nd:	Arrival and rehearsals at RemisenBrande, Brande (Dk)
Wed. April 23rd:	Rehearsals
Thu. April 24th:	Rehearsals
Fri. April 25th:	Pre debut at RemisenBrande, Brande (DK)
Sat. April 26th:	Silkeborg Højskole /Jazz club, (DK) - Debut Concert
Sun. April 27th:	Gustav Heinemann Bürgerhaus, Bremen-Vegesack (D)
Mon. April 28th:	Flagey, Brussels (B) (RTBF recording)
Tue. April 29th:	Porgy en Bess, Terneuzen (NL)
Wed. April 30th:	Heilig-Geist-Spital, Nürnberg (D)
Thu. May 1st:	Tempel, Karlsruhe (D)
Fri. May 2nd:	Jazz Club Regensburg (D)
Sat. May 3rd:	Stadtgarten, Cologne (D) (WDR recording)
Sun. May 4th:	WDR - Klaus von Bismarck Saal, Cologne (D) (WDR recording)
Mon. May 5th:	Domicil, Dortmund (D)
Tue. May 6th:	Abbaye de Neumünster, Luxembourg
Wed. May 7th:	Saarländische Rundfunk, Saarbrücken (D) (SR recording)
Thu. May 8th:	Bunker Ulmenwall, Bielefeld (D)
Fri May 9th:	Moers Festival, Moers (D) (WDR recording)

PD Dr. Bernd Hoffmann, jazz producer of PG Musik WDR 3 is the EBU-curator of the EYJO 2008. In cooperation with Swinging Europe he has planned the high profile tour ending in the highly respected European jazz festival at Moers, Germany. PD Dr. Bernd Hoffmann motivates the choice of Nils Klein as conductor and composer of the EYJO 08: *"The first time I listened to Niels Klein's music I instantly liked it. His music is original and vivid, expressive and elegant; the sound is modern with a fresh feeling. We got together to talk about his ideas to compose music for a new project. That's how it came that Niels' WDR production with his tentet of 2006 developed into the idea of choosing him as a bandleader for the EYJO. Niels Klein is both a composer of "great" jazz as well as unique as a bandleader and musician. I am looking forward to his music performed by a young European Big Band."*



Fidel Fourneyron, France



Robert Landfermann, Germany

About Niels Klein, the conductor and composer of EYJO 08

The composer's approach

Niels Klein's compositions for jazz orchestra draw their inspiration from many different musical sources. The modern big band tradition of Gil Evans and Bob Brookmeyer sharpened his senses for dense chords and the variety of colours within the big band instrumentation. The way he treats dynamic or static textures proves his love for classical 20th century composers like Ligeti, Shostakovitch or Henri Dutilleux. His orchestrations often reach a visual quality, as he tries to bring architectonic shapes or movements to life in front of the inner eye of the listener. These transparent shimmering - or edgy, block like - forms are sometimes combined with grooves, which remind of progressive drum & bass or rock-bands like Massive Attack or Radiohead.

The conductor's approach

This creates highly explosive big band music in which the musicians are not only anonymous section players but are asked - and forced - to bring in their personal musical language. By dividing the orchestra into improvising sub-groups he generates "instant compositions" and sometimes the borders between composition and improvisation seem almost to disappear.

Niels Klein

Born 1978

Currently based in Cologne, Germany

Niels Klein started to play saxophone at the age of 13. In 1998 – 2000 he was 1st tenor player and composer/ arranger for the German Youth Jazz Orchestra (BUJAZZO), led by Peter Herbolzheimer. During his career Klein has received several prizes and awards like Jazzpodium Niedersachsen with his Niels Klein Oktett (2000), 1st prize at the big band composer competition Jazzart crossing Borders (2004), NRW-Förderpreis (2004), Förderpreis der Stadt Köln, (2005) and Horst u. Gretl Will scholarship (2005). In 2005 he was chosen by the radio-station Deutschlandfunk as German representative in the EBU-European Youth Jazz Orchestra for an extended tour in Europe and Canada. Besides his own actual bands Niels Klein Trio and Niels Klein Tentett he has performed in several festivals and venues as Jazzbaltica Salza, Traumzeit Festival Duisburg and jazzcologne, with Firomanum, the Tippet Ensemble, Mike Svoboda, Ernesto Molinari, Arkady Shilkloper, James Choice Orchestra, WDR BigBand, Jeff Hamilton, Toots Thielemans, Nils Wogram, Underkarl, Victor Bailey, Albert Mangelsdorf, Charlie Mariano and Bob Brookmeyer among others. Since 2001 he has been a steady member of the Band in the PRO 7 TV-Show TV TOTAL; The Heavytones. With this band he played with international pop/ rock musicians as Lionel Ritchie, Bootsy Collins, Joss Stone, Busta Rhymes, Michael Buble, Backstreet Boys and many others. Niels Klein has released two albums in his own name and been involved in several albums with bands and band leaders like Firomanum, The Heavytones, Underkarl, Frank Wingold Quartet, Florian Ross, Lars Duppler Palindrome Sextett, Christian Winninghoff Group, Jürgen Friedrich, Joscha Oetz and Jazzorchester Niedersachsen. His compositions (jazz as well as classical) have been performed by orchestras as the Metropole Orchestra, ensemble o:ton, the Helios Ensemble, Cologne Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, Summit Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra Niedersachsen among others. Since 1998 Niels Klein did studies in saxophone and composition at the Hochschule für Musik, Köln with Frank Gratkowski, Claudio Puntin and Bill Dobbins. In 2005 he was invited to the International Euroring Composers Workshop with Vince Mendoza.

www.niels-klein.com

Further information of EYJO

"If this is your introduction to the European Youth Jazz Orchestra (EYJO), don't let the name fool you. It is not a student band. The players are indeed young; they must not be over 30. However, they have a wealth of experience in their home countries."

- Bill Falconer; jazzreview.com.



Concert at STAR LIVE in Beijing - EYJO 07

This quote explains the high quality of the concept, which each year produce an entity - a well working and functional big band.

This big band is NOT to compare with a youth big band, as we know them in general. It's not a high-school big band, nor a college big band. The band consists of highly professional musicians, who have remarkable experience and have performed on some of the world most prestigious stages. All musicians are between 18 and 30 years old.

"What the world needs now is more swinging and less skirmishing; long live Swinging Europe and the EYJO!"

With these words of praise Jack Bowers, writing for the webmag "All about Jazz" pays tribute to the EYJO in his review of their latest CD from last year and continues: ***"What a great (one is almost tempted to say "civilized") idea: an orchestra composed of young musicians from European countries, touring the Continent for three weeks and presenting a series of concerts under the aegis of the Danish-based organization Swinging Europe and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). Each year, new musicians, composers and conductors are singled out as mentors."***

The two people behind the initiative are Erik Moseholm and Birgit Vinge. In 2008 it will be the 11th time that they have organized the "Swinging Europe" concept. In 1998 they commissioned Pierre Dørge from Denmark to conduct, followed by Francois Théberge (France), Helge Albin (Sweden), Benjamin Herman (The Netherlands), Django Bates (UK), Bruno Tomasso (Italy) and Pedro Moreira (Portugal). In 2005 the EBU Big Band and "Swinging Europe" were merged. Since then, the EBU's jazz producers have taken turns in choosing the composers and conductors – Vic Vogel (Canada) 2005, Barrie Forgie (UK) 2006 and Lars Møller (Denmark) 2007.

The project is kindly supported by the Culture Programme of the EU-commission, the Danish Ministry of Culture and the Ikast-Brande Municipality.

EYJO is official partner of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008; www.dialogue2008.eu

For further information and tour diary please check the press site at www.swinging-europe.dk