

## **TUTU PUOANE QUARTET**



The quartet was formed by Tutu Puoane in 2003 while she was still a student at the Conservatory of Music and Dance in The Hague, The Netherlands. The band started out with Ewout Pierreux on piano, Rodrigo Reijers on bass and Yves Peeters on drums. Together they played at some very exciting venues and festivals, opening for Dave Brubeck in the summer of 2004 and playing at the Grahamstown Jazz Festival in South Africa where Tutu was the recipient of the 2004 Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year Award for Music. The beginning of 2005 brought in new members Guus Bakker on bass and Jasper Van Hulten on drums. Ewout Pierreux remains to be Tutu's favorite pianist.

The quartet has just released Tutu's debut album titled Song, on the new dutch label Saphrane ([www.saphrane.com](http://www.saphrane.com)) The band plays a variety of American jazz standard repertoire, mainly arranged by pianist Ewout Pierreux. They also have a love for compositions by young South African composers such as saxophonist Buddy Wells, trumpeter Marcus Wyatt and bassist Carlo Mombelli. This mixture gives the band a very universal sound, and it appeals to a broader audience, not necessarily jazz fanatics. One of the latest highlights for the band was opening for Mr Jack DeJohnette and his Intercontinental band, which features South Africa's diva Sibongile Khumalo and maestro Danilo Perez on piano, at the Cully Jazz Festival in Switzerland, March 2007.

## TUTU PUOANE



**Vocalist TUTU PUOANE was born May 31st, 1979 in South Africa as Nontuthuzelo Elaine Puoane. She started playing music professionally in 1997 in down town Johannesburg, South Africa. Tutu studied jazz vocals with Jelena Reveshin, Natasha Roth-Scholfield and Rachel Gould, and has attended workshops with Deborah Brown and Dianne Reeves. She played concerts in South Africa, Italy, New York, Germany, New Orleans, France, Switzerland, Belgium and Holland, and in 2004 was the recipient of the Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year Award for Music in South Africa.**

Tutu has performed extensively in South Africa with many great South African musicians. In 2001, she performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival Cape Town, leading an afro-latino band, Tucan Tucan. Puoane toured New York in 2000 as vocalist with the South African National Youth Big Band of 1999. Tutu is currently the vocalist for the Frits Bayens Big Band of Breda, The Netherlands, and is recently the vocalist for one of the best big bands in all of Europe, The BJO, Brussels Jazz Orchestra, in their new project dedicated to Billie Holiday titled "Writing Billie", where Belgian trumpeter and composer Bert Joris is the arranger.

Ms Puoane has received several awards from major South African Jazz Competitions. In 2000 she was awarded the Old Mutual Jazz encounters for Cape Region and in 2001 she received a merit award for young promising talent at the Daimler Chrysler South African Jazz Competition. Tutu has shared the same stage with the likes of Sibongile Khumalo, Marcus Wyatt, Jack van Poll, Hein van de Geyn, Hans van

Oosterhout, Dré Pallemmaerts, Stacy Rowles, Mark Murphy, Madeline Bell, Georgie Fame, Roy Hargrove, John Engels and Toots Thielemans.

Tutu and her trio have just released her debut album *Song*, with a small Dutch label, Saphrane. The album also features the great Belgian trumpeter Bert Joris, Dutch saxophonist Mete Erker and Belgian guitarist Geert Hellings.

### **THE TRIO**

**Pianist *EWOUT PIERREUX* - °1978 te Halle, Belgium**



From a very young age Ewout started playing piano and alto saxophone. He got a traditional training at the music academies of Halle and Gooik, where he graduated in 1996. As from that moment he chose for the piano and continued his studies at the jazz department of the Lemmensinstituut in Leuven, where he was taught by great Dutch pianist Ron Van Rossum. He graduated in 2001. During his studies he followed masterclasses of a.o. Brad Mehldau, Bobo Stenson, Kenny Werner, Bruce Barth and Bill Carrothers. At this moment he's teaching himself at the music academy of Sint-Agatha-Berchem and at the Kunsthumaniora (Antwerp).

He plays piano in the quartet Jazzisfaction and in t-unit 7, a new project of saxophonist Tom Van Dyck. He's the regular pianist of a new big band project called 'tuesday night orchestra'. As a leader he has his own trio (ep3) with Yannick Peeters on bass and Steven Cassiers on drums.

He also plays keys in the rockproject Upperlip Orchestra and he's busy as a sideman in several projects, among which 'Goddam: a tribute to dr. Nina Simone'. Ewout played concerts with the Brussels jazz Orchestra and the High Voltage Sextet and with a.o. Toots Thielemans, Frank Vaganée, Kurt Van Herck, Bart Defoort, Bert Joris, Philippe Aerts, Dré Pallemmaerts, Martijn Vink... He played on major festivals such as the Blue Note Festival Ghent (Joost Zweegers Sings Chet Baker, 2005), Jazz Middelheim (Maria Schneider Big Band Workshop, 2001), Gaume Jazzfestival (Jazzisfaction, 2004), Park Jazz Kortrijk (Tutu Puoane Quartet, 2004) and is named as one of the promising Belgian young jazz pianists.

**Drummer *JASPER VAN HULTEN* - °1981 te Breda, Nederland**



Jasper started playing drums at age 7, getting a degree in classical percussion from the local 'Koninklijke Harmonie Cecilia' in 1990. After that he began taking lessons at the music school in Breda during,

which made him discover a wide range of styles. At home his mom was a classical singer and his father played guitar and sang songs of the Beatles and French chansons. All of this made him into an allround drummer, with interests from jazz to pop, latin, Brazilian, classical, rock and R&B.

He studied at the Conservatory of Rotterdam, graduating in 2002 summa cum laude. Among his teachers were Hans van Oosterhout, Peter Ypma and Fred Krens. After finishing his studies, Jasper has been playing a lot around the Netherlands, gaining experience with Dick de Graaf, Michiel Borstlap, Bert van den Brink, Lydia van Dam, Harmen Fraanje, Angelo Verploegen and many others.

At this moment he's the drummer of 'Sensual', 'State of Monc' and 'Young Sinatra's'. He's playing on a regular basis with great musicians like a.o. Eric Vloeimans, Ad Colen and Jeroen van Vliet.

### **Bassist *GUUS BAKKER* - °1970 te Doesburg, Nederland**



Guus started to play guitar at age 11 and dedicated himself to the electric bass at 14. In 1989, he started to study at the Rotterdam Conservatory with electric bass as his main subject and double bass, an entirely unknown instrument for him at that time. He was taught by Wim Essed, Koos Serierse and Pieter Douma. He graduated in 1996. Ever since then Guus has been active especially as a performing musician, both in the Dutch and Belgian music scene, besides some teaching at SKVR (Rotterdam) and at 'de Stoep' (Spijkenisse).

The Netherlands: E.T. (Jeroen van Vliet), Pascal Vermeer 5tet, DTX (a.o. Berthil Busstra, Spencer Croes). As freelancer with a.o. Michiel Borstlap, Eric Vloeimans, Dick De Graaf, Ben Van Den Dungen/Jarmo Hoogendijk.

Belgium: Frederic Delplanq 4tet, Robin Verheyen trio, Quintessence, Pentachrome, Bruno Vansina 4tet. As freelancer a.o. Kris Goessens, Bart Van Caenegem, Kurt van Herck, Tom Van Dyck, Dré Pallemmaerts, Mimi Verderame, Teun Verbruggen.

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