

Drummer, Percussionist, Composer, Arranger, Copyist

Phone (USA) - (+1) 917-420-5848

Phone (Europe) - (+386)051-384-066

zan.tetickovic@gmail.com

www.jean-john.com

New York, United States

Curriculum Vitae

Jean John, born Žan Tetičkovic on May 28th 1991 in a city of Ptuj is a Slovenian drummer, producer and multiple award winning composer living in New York City.

He started with his musical training at age 6, when he started studying classical piano at the “Karol Pahor Ptuj” primary music school under the mentorship of professor Mladen Delin. He graduated with honors in 2005. In 2004 he started playing drums and also produced his first project “T-group”, that was hip-hop oriented. In 2006, he enrolled in a Gimnazija Ptuj, a high school in his hometown Ptuj and formed his first group, funk oriented band “Puzzles”.

From years 2006-2008, he studied jazz drums with professor Bruno Domiter and also sound engineering with professor Danilo Ženko at the prominent private music school “BASE” in Maribor. In 2008 he attended two world-class workshops: “East Meets West” in Groznjan, Croatia and “Jazz Kamp Kranj” in Kranj, Slovenia, where he studied with: Kim Plainfield, Jojo Mayer, Nippi Noya, Mike Haid, Marco Minneman, Christopher Bras, Emil Spanyi and Primoz Grasic.

His first serious experience as a composer and arranger occurred in 2008, when he formed and led his own jazz orchestra “Attic Echo”, with whom he performed concerts throughout Slovenia.

In June 2009, he received a scholarship to attend the summer study program at the “Codarts” academy of fine arts in Rotterdam Netherlands, where he studied with Harold Danko, Gerard Presencer, Ed Vaerhoff, Rick Margitza in Hans Van Oosterhout. In August 2009 he participated on the “Jazzinty” summer workshop in Novo Mesto, Slovenia and studied there with: Steve Altenberg, Andy Middleton, Randy Brecker, Simone Zanchini, Judy Niemack, Luis Ribiero.

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In 2009, he started playing with well-known names in the jazz and popular music scene in Slovenia, formed his quintet (Zan Tetickovic Quintet) and performed in a big hall of Gimnasium Ptuj in Slovenia with some of the finest musicians on a European Jazz Scene: Marko Crncec, Matej Hotko, Tomaz Gajst and Gregor Kozar. At that time he became sideman of few very promising young jazz groups: “ZbiJazz” and “SatchmoClub”.

In year 2010 he invited world-renowned saxophone player Lenart Krecic to collaborate with his quintet. They performed in notable venues and festivals, including Jazz Club Gajo Ljubljana and Terasafest festival in Ptuj. In 2010 he also started performing with Uros Peric, (also known as “Slovenian Ray Charles”), Igor Bezget, Jure Pukl and Peter Ugrin and a group “Groove Directions”.

In July 2010, he graduated from Gymnasium Ptuj and passed an audition for studies at the prominent “Prince Claus Conservatoire” in Groningen, Netherlands. Few days later, he participated on international “IASJ Jazz Meeting”, led by Mr. Dave Liebman. He was noticed by the legendary jazz bassist, Mr. Reggie Workman (John Coltrane, Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers) and was given a scholarship to study at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music.

In December 2010 he organized a fundraiser concert in his hometown Ptuj and invited Maja Keuc, Igor Bezget, Jure Pukl, Tadej Kampl and Marko Crncec to join his group “Suspended Sounds” for that occasion.

His studies at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York City began in January 2011, where until graduating in 2015, he has studied drums and composition with: Michael Carvin, Gil Goldstein, Rudy Palmer, Tyshawn Sorey, Chris Stover, Mark Guiliana, Gregory Hutchinson, Rodney Green, Amir Ziv, Obed Calvaire, Nasheet Waits, Dan Weiss and Drew Gress.

In May 2011, he started working with legendary trumpeter and composer, Mr Jimmy Owens as his personal arranger and copyist. In June he wrote his first programmatic work – a concert for piano entitled “Universe 1863” for the official national exhibition “Slovenia in US”, led by Alenka Slavinec and sponsored by American Embassy in Slovenia and Raiffeisen Bank.

in July 2011, he organized a 14-day tour with his quintet, performing

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on some of the major jazz festivals in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia (Terasafest, Jazz festival Boben In Lajna, Jazz Club Gajo, Jazz Festival Lent).

In the fall of 2011, he passed an audition for two of the most respected ensembles at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music: “John Coltrane Ensemble”, and “Jazz Orchestra”, directed by Reggie Workman and Charles Tolliver. He also began teaching drums and classical piano at the Montclair Academy for Dance (MADLOM) in Montclair, New Jersey.

In February 2012, he received a highly acclaimed “ASCAP” Young Jazz Composers award” for his composition entitled “57th Day”. He also passed an audition for the New School’s Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers Ensemble, with whom he started performing in the New York City area.

As a drummer, he began playing with Lesedi Ntsane group, Luca Rosenfeld group, Eustacia Foster Quartet, and also with BLT trio (Lannen, Barg, Tetickovic), with whom he performed as a substitute drummer for Winard Harper at the Moore’s Lounge traditional Monday Jam Sessions in Jersey City, New Jersey.

In March 2012, he became an official tutor with high recommendations for arranging, composing, sight-reading and Rhythm at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music.

In May of 2012 he became copyist for Reggie Workman and also recorded his first professional demo of originals at the Systems Two Studios in Brooklyn, New York with some of the finest young musicians from New York City area: Alexander Claffy, Matt Chalk, Cho Rong Kim, Asaf Yuria, Nash Guilermo and Kurtis Muller.

From 12-18 August 2012, he appeared with Andrej Hocevar 9MM group and perform with Samo Salamon, Jure Pukl and Milan Nikolic on festivals: Jazzinty, Bled, Ptuj Muzikafe, Jazz Kamp Kranj.

As a finalist of prominent International Composers Competiton “Jazzon LIVE 2012”, he competed on 15th of August in the finals and won the award for best original composition “Jazzon MASTER AWARD”, which was presented to him by the president of Slovenia, Dr. Danilo Turk. His winning composition “Zero To One” was evaluated and selected

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by Society of Slovene Composers (SSC) and by master composers like: Miroslav Vitous, Lojze Krajncan, Andy Middleton and Danny Grisett". On that competition he also received an "Jazzon audience award" for the best performance of original composition.

He performed on the European Culture Capital 2012 Festival from 25.-27. August as an actor and musician in Maya Milenovic Workman's play: "Guernica Continuum 2012". The play was staged on the National Theatre of Slovenia, SNG Maribor.

In September of 2012, he became official assistant for Theory and Composition for Christopher Stover, a head professor of theory at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, becoming the youngest assistant professor in the history of the university.

In October 2012 he co-formed a so called "Balkan Jazz Trio" with Filip Novosel, a Croatian star of jazz tambura and Martin Doykin, bass player from Bulgaria and performed on a weekly basis at the prestigious restaurant in mid-Manhattan, "Balkanika".

In 2013, he started performing with New York based Indian saxophonist, Arun Luthra and also joined Hye - Yuang Quartet, New Quintet for Balkan and Contemporary Music, Steve Nelson Trio and became a member of New School' Miles Davis Second Quintet tribute group led by bassist extraordinaire, Doug Weiss.

In May 2013 he performed with Filip Novosel Quartet at the International Festival in Bern, Switzerland with Quentin Tschofen on Piano and Igor Kogan on bass. After that week, they got invited back and performed in famous Marian's Jazz Room in December 2013. In June 2013 he appeared on international Jazz Festival "Dzjezz" in Celje, Slovenia with "Ljubljana Saxophone Quintet" and National Radio and TV Jazz Orchestra Slovenia (Big Band RTV Slovenia) as a special guest. Following successful performance, on which he premiered his composition "Odyssey 22" he got an offer to record a record with exclusively original compositions in May 2014.

In November 2013 he (as co-leader and author of majority of compositions) recorded his debut recording with an international Balkan-Jazz group based in New York City called "Balchemy" (with Filip Novosel, Martha Kato, Francesco Geminiani and Martin Doykin). In March 2014, the group "Balchemy" he received a Downbeat Student

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Music Award for an outstanding performance and toured throughout Europe in the following months. In February 2014, for the second time, he received a highly acclaimed ASCAP “Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award”, for composition entitled “Ples”. After becoming an assistant to Dr. Chris Stover, he also became an assistant to the head of the department at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, Jane Ira Bloom.

Following a received commission, in May 2014, he finally realized one of his life-long dreams and produced a big band record with national jazz orchestra in Slovenia (Big Band RTV Slovenia) and world-class guests: Theodosii Spassov (Bulgaria) on kaval, Vlatko Stefanovski (Macedonia) on guitar, Filip Novosel (Croatia) on tambura and Marko Crncec (Slovenia) on piano and keyboards. The project was named “Oasis” and contained exclusively Zan’s compositions. Following very successful debut concert on an international festival Jazz Cerkno and a big, charitable concert in his hometown Ptuj, he captured the music on a record, which is to be released on April 16th of 2016. In October 2014 he recorded a collaborative piano trio record entitled “Good Start” with Italian -Chilean piano player Geo Progulakis and a New York City native bassist Luca Rosenfeld.

In May 2015, he graduated from The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music with academic honors and was also featured in an internationally acclaimed documentary (“Time to Improvise”) about Slovenian Jazz musicians living abroad. With saxophonist Jure Pukl and bassist Will Slater, he appeared at the Slovenian and Austrian embassies in Washington and has on behalf of an invitation by Slovenian ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar also performed at the opening of a honorary Slovenian consulate in New York City in November 2015 with his own quartet, featuring Jan Kus on saxophone.

In January 2016, he premiered his new and so far the biggest project, “The Port of Life” – a personal story about immigration and acculturation, which he will release on his new album in the June of 2016. The record will feature: Adam Rogers on guitar, Marko Churnchetz on piano, Mike Rodriguez on trumpet, Jan Kus on saxophones, Thana Alexa on vocals, Myles Sloniker on bass and the famous Dover String Quartet.