

Press text:

Biography **Michael Gustorff**

Michael Gustorff is one of the very few violin players who has specialized in jazz and other forms of improvised music. He was born in Leverkusen (Germany) in 1958. He studied classical music at the "Musikhochschule Duisburg" and jazz at the conservatories in Amsterdam and Arnhem (The Netherlands). Like many violinists, the first jazz band he played with was a gipsy swing or "hot club de France" band. He played with the "Rigo Winterstein Swingtet", the "Danny Weiss Ensemble" a.o. As a member of the "Vania Hot Swing Quartet" he won the competition organized by the International Jazz Festival Breda (The Netherlands).

In the late eighties he introduced his own band, the "Michael Gustorff Quartet" at the North Sea Jazz Festival (The Hague). Since then he has also been a member of the "Dick de Graaf Septet", one of the best modern jazz bands in Holland, with whom he has recorded 5 CDs. In the following years he played and recorded with a great variety of bands including German singer Uli Wewelsiep's "Blue Voice", the Mexican band "Mexico Lindo", the "European Danzon Orchestra", the cajun band "Casual Balance", the guitar duo Cor Mutsers/Patrick van Gerwen..... He has toured with different bands and as a soloist all over Europe (Viersen, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Imatra, Dublin) and throughout Canada (Jazz Festivals in Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto...) and to India.

He has also worked as a guest soloist with several big bands: the "Rias Big Band" (Radio big band Berlin), the "Millenium Jazz Orchestra" and the "Guus Tangelder Big Band" (the Netherlands).....

Beside that Michael has worked as a musical supervisor with the musical group "Ventura". He also produced the CD of the musical. Since 2003 he is a member of the cross-over trio 'Strings Up' and he plays as a guest soloist with different bands

Michael Gustorff teaches jazz violin, ensembles and mental training at the 'ArtEZ Institute of the Arts' (Arnhem, Netherlands) and the "Hochschule für Musik Köln" (Cologne, Germany). He gives mental training workshops, individual coachings and is the author of the book "Practising without Problems" - Mental Training for (Jazz)musicians.

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From the Press:

.....very catchy virtuoso improvising wonderfully with the other instruments a virtuoso belted out the melodies with practised ease, his talent unmistakable.....

.....when he plays the violin, everybody present gets drawn into the rhythm of the master by including jazz and other forms of improvised music with the violin, Gustorff is broadening the horizon for the classical instrument and taking it to a whole new level.....

.....a sterling performance gave the audience an object lesson in what jazz is all about.

.....rapturous strains of the violin special guest violinist Michael Gustorff, international professional - gave a performance to remember.....

.....the virtuoso solos of jazz-violinist Michael Gustorff were outstanding throughout the evening.....

.....Michael Gustorff plays his violin like a horn, with delightfully refreshing solos.....

.....the obvious technical facility remained subservient to the demands of musicality.....

.....Michael has completely mastered this difficult instrument thanks to a good conservatory education and a combination of musicality, good taste and originality.....

.....The violin solo with its beautiful long phrases and fast sixteenth notes was one of the best solos of the evening. Gustorff has a strong full tone.....

.....Michael Gustorff played modern jazz without any clichés. Although many violinists tend to play endless lines, he took breaths just at the right moments, as if his violin were a horn.....

.....Jazz violinist Michael Gustorff stole the hearts of the audience Michael Gustorff proved that he commands his instrument, but with subtlety. Bowing effects transformed the notes into clear mountain streams with a musical sensitivity on the one hand and a passionate character on the other.....

.....Amazing debut Michael Gustorff Quartet the concert went like a dream, with inspired playing with obvious enjoyment.....

.....colourful solos.....

.....well-focussed intensity of Michael Gustorff's playing.....

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