

NORBERT SUSEMIHL'S NIGHT ON FRENCHMEN STREET

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The band was founded in 2012 initially for the JazzAscona Festival in Switzerland where it performed for 10 days in June 2012. The name is taken from the new musical scene which has been evolving in the past few years on Frenchmen Street in New Orleans, only a few blocks away from the old historic French Quarter

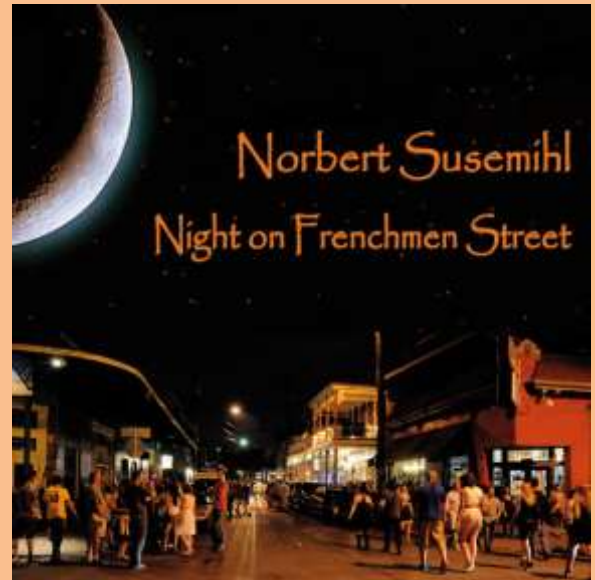
All the musicians in the band are a regular part of that scene, presenting New Orleans Music on a high artistic level and stylistic variety. From the 20s to today's New Orleans sounds.

Part of the regular concert program is also the Blues Trio: "Erika, Norbert & Shaye" with authentic blues from the 20s, 30s and 40s with Vocal, Trumpet and Piano, inspired among others by Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Merline Johnson and Louis Armstrong. Founded in October 2010, when it made its first recording, the trio has started performing in the Clubs on Frenchmen Street.

This band was a big success on its first European tour, in Ascona as well as on the Maribo Jazz Festival in Denmark.



2 CDs are available of the band and the trio:



You can hear the music here:
www.susemihl.eu

Personnel:

Erika Lewis

(New Orleans, USA)

vocal

Norbert Susemihl

(Germany/Denmark/New Orleans)

trumpet

Gregory Agid

(New Orleans, USA)

clarinet/sax

Kerry Lewis

(New Orleans, USA)

bass

Shaye Cohn

(New Orleans, USA)

piano

Jason Marsalis

(New Orleans, USA)

drums

Thomas Altmann

(Hamburg, Germany)

drums

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NORBERT SUSEMIHL **Trumpet (D/DK/New Orleans)**



Born 1956 in Hamburg Germany, Norbert Susemihl began to play the trumpet at the age of 15. In 1978 and 1979 he made his first trips to New Orleans. In 1980 he became a member of the „New Orleans Musicians Union“ and lived there for a year to study New Orleans Jazz and the lifestyle and culture that made and shaped this music. For the following 10 years, Norbert spent several months each year in New Orleans and played regularly with almost all of the local musicians, from the older traditional musicians to the younger generation players, covering all styles of New Orleans Music. He has made recordings with New Orleans musicians, veterans like Willie Humphrey, Father Al Lewis, and CoCoMo Joe, and from the younger generation, Wanda Rouzan, Kerry Lewis, Jason Marsalis and Louis Ford. Besides playing with his own bands, Norbert is also regularly touring and performing as a guest with different bands in Europe, and New Orleans, performing on many festivals and clubs. He is considered today as one of the leading trumpeters in the New Orleans style.

ERIKA LEWIS – Vocal (New Orleans/USA)



Erika Lewis has an exceptional voice and style of singing that is all her own. Her interpretations of the classic blues are so rich of finesse and beauty, and touch the listener deeply. Originally from upstate New York, Erika began singing the blues and jazz in 2007 on the streets of Europe, while on tour with the Cyclown Cirkus, a bike powered musical sideshow of sorts. It was there that she and Shaye Cohn began playing music together. Erika moved to New Orleans after Katrina, and is performing there also with the band Tuba Skinny. She has appeared on Festivals in the US, Europe and Australia.

GREGORY AGID – clarinet/sax (New Orleans/USA)



Clarinetist Gregory Agid has called New Orleans his home for several years and is now breaking out as a member of the new generation of New Orleans jazz musicians. "My music is very much based on the musical traditions upheld by musicians before me," he explains. "I see myself as being in a cultural continuum of music, picking up where the greats left off and moving the music to the next logical next step." Agid has performed with several distinguished jazz musicians such as Delfeayo Marsalis, Ellis Marsalis, Herlin Riley, Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, and Troy "Trombone Shorty". He has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and also on the WWOZ FM radio station. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Agid and his family later moved to Honolulu, Hawaii--where he spent his childhood. At the Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp in New Orleans, Agid was educated and mentored by Alvin Batiste, Kidd Jordan, and Clyde Kerr. He studied at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), and later graduated from Loyola University in New Orleans with a Bachelor of Music degree in Clarinet Performance.

SHAYE COHN – piano (New Orleans/USA)



Shaye Cohn is an outstanding piano player, and in her style, amongst the best in New Orleans today. She has a classical education, and only started playing New Orleans Jazz around 2006. Inspired by Jelly Roll Morton, she has a perfect musical timing and proficiency of voicing the chords of a song. Besides the piano, she also is very skilful on the cornet, which she plays in the band Tuba Skinny. She moved to New Orleans from the west coast, and has performed on many festivals in the US and Europe.

KERRY LEWIS – bass (New Orleans - USA)



Kerry Lewis has toured three continents with his bass, conducted a big band, composed and coproduced several songs, cofounded a record company, and has his own Group "Abstract". Kerry's one true love and passion is music. His style of playing the bass is his very own and his tone and sound on the instrument is extremely powerful and natural and marks him simply as one of the best. He started out on a baby guitar, just 3 years old. There would be several professional model guitars as well as bass guitars, upright basses, and saxophones to follow. All State honours, membership in the National Collegiate Wind Band as well as the McDonald's Jazz Band, and the selection as St. Augustine High School's Drum Major all exemplified the musical talent that Kerry nurtured in his early years. He started his professional career as a bass player for the consummate performer Banu Gibson and her New Orleans Hot Jazz Band. The thrilling Leroy Jones Quintet also kept Kerry very busy jamming to up-tempo jazz tunes into the late nineties. And in this decade, the very accomplished Michael White has utilized Kerry's laid back style in his Traditional Liberty Jazz Band. It has been Kerry's utmost pleasure and honour to play with and learn from these talented musical veterans. In addition, Kerry has been recorded on numerous CDs for various other musical artists covering the blues, country, rock, jazz genres.

JASON MARSALIS – Drums (New Orleans - USA)



Born 1977 in New Orleans, Jason is the youngest member of the famous Marsalis family. By the age of six, he had his first real drum set, and was taking lessons from the legendary New Orleans drummer James Black. He has not only inherited the virtuosity and compositional skills, associated with the Marsalis family, but has also developed a distinctive, polyrhythmic drumming style. His first professional gig was with his father's jazz groups at the age of twelve. He graduated in 1995 from the acclaimed New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts High School (NOCCA). Jason has performed with international jazz luminaries such as Joe Henderson, Lionel Hampton, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, worked with straight-ahead combos, funk fusion bands, a Brazilian percussion ensemble, and even a Celtic group. He co-founded the wildly successful "Los Hombres Calientes", and he joined up with the acclaimed pianist Marcus Roberts, while he studied classical percussion at Loyola University, and composition at Southern University in New Orleans. Jason Marsalis tours regularly, and most recently, he has been playing vibraphone as well. His maturity, sense of style, tastefulness and the command he possesses over his instrument, makes him one of the most versatile and swinging drummers of today.

THOMAS ALTMANN – drums (Hamburg/Germany)



Born in 1954 in Hamburg/Germany, Thomas Altmann began to play music in 1971. Mostly self-taught, he has a natural and direct approach of drumming and sense of tradition and timekeeping. He has been regularly cooperating with Norbert Susemihl since 1986 and widened his knowledge on New Orleans drumming extensively, which strongly shaped and enriched his playing. He is also at home in other musical styles, making his first of several trips to Cuba in 1984. Altmann is also a master of Cuban Music and of percussion, writing and teaching about Cuban drums and drumming.

He is a virtuoso, one of Europe's leading instrumentalists and very much at home with the traditional jazzstyle, Ragtime, New Orleans, Swing and Bop. As percussionist, he is highly in demand for Salsa, Cuban, Brazilian and Ghanaian music, amongst others with the North German Radio Big Band.