

FRANK GRATKOWSKI QUARTET

Frank Gratkowski	altosaxophon, clarinet, bassclarinet, contrabassclatinet , flute, composition
Wolter Wierbos	trombone
Dieter Manderscheid	bass
Gerry Hemingway	drums

I founded the "Frank Gratkowski Trio" in 1995 after I had played with both musicians in various formations (incl. Grubenklang Orchester and Klaus Koenig Orchester). Since 2000 the trio has been extended with the Dutch trombonist Wolter Wierbos to a quartet. In the music of the quartet, I am trying to form a synthesis of composition and improvisation where all instruments have equal functions to build a unified whole.

CDs:

"Gestalten" 1996 (Jazzhausmusik)
"The Flume Factor" 1998 (random acoustics)
"Kollaps" 2001 (Red Toucan Records)
"Spectral Reflections" 2003 (Leo Records)
"Facio" 2004 (Leo Records)
Double Quartet "Loft Exile" 2004 (Leo Records)

Wolter Wierbos trombone (NL)

is considered one of the world's leading trombone players. He has played throughout all of Europe and has toured numerous times throughout Canada, USA, Japan and Indonesia. He can be heard on more than 60 CDs and LPs. Wierbos has many awards to his name including the Laren Jazzpodium Prijs, the Podiumprijs for Jazz and Improvised Music and the most important Dutch jazz prize, the Boy Edgar Prijs. Since 1979 he has played with numerous music ensembles: Cumulus (w/ Ab Baars and Harry de Wit), JC Tans and the Rockets, Sean Bergin's MOB, Theo Lovendie Quintet, Guus Janssen Septet, Loos (Peter van Bergen), Celebration of Difference (w/ Jarmo Hoogendijk and Ben van den Dungen) and theater, dance, television and film projects. He has been invited to play with The EX, Gruppo Sportivo, and the Nieuw Ensemble (led by Ed Spanjaard). He has also played with Henry Threadgill, The Berlin Contemporary Jazz Orchestra (led by Alexander von Schlippenbach), the European Big Band (led by Cecil Taylor), the John Carter Project, Butch Morris and Tom Cora. He is currently active with the Maarten Altena Ensemble, Misha Mengelberg's ICP, the Podium Trio (w/ Jan Kuiper and Paul van Kemenade), Gerry Hemingway Quintet, Curtis Clark Sextet, Franky Douglas' Sunchild, Bik Bent Braam, Albrecht Maurer Quartet and A.J. He also plays children's concerts with Ernst Reijseger and Alan "Gunga" Purves and maintains a solo career.

Dieter Manderscheid bass (D)

Born 1956 in Trier, Germany.

Studied music in Saarbrücken and Köln.

He has been playing tours, festivals, projects, radio- and tv-productions all over the world. He also did numerous tours for the Goethe-Institut.

Dieter Manderscheid has worked in various international formations (Grubenklang Orchester, Tome XX, Klaus König Orchester, Frank Gratkowski Trio, Winterschladen/Krämer/Manderscheid, ENSEMBLE MODERN, etc.).

Dieter Manderscheid has been teaching at the music conservatories in Frankfurt and Cologne and at the "Institut für Neue Musik" in Darmstadt.

Furthermore he has performed with Harry Beckett, Peter Brötzmann, Pierre Favre, Georg Graewe, Robert Dick, Gerry Hemingway, Phil Wachsmann, Radu Malfatti, Herb Robertson, Barre Phillips, Steve Lacy, Keith Tippett, Ray Anderson, Michael Moore, Greg Osby, Kenny Wheeler, Louis Sclavis, John Betsch, Phil Minton, David Moss, Günter Sommer, Mark Feldman a.m.o.

Gerry Hemingway drums (USA)

is making his live as a freelance musician and composer in New York, USA.

Gerry Hemingway has been working with several international ensembles (such as Anthony Braxton Quartet, Reggie Workman Ensemble, Frank Gratkowski Trio, BassDrumBone, Georg Graewe Trio)

He is also giving solo concerts, composing electronic-music as well as orchestral music, is leading his own quartet and is involved in diverse other musical projects.

Gerry Hemingway's discography includes much more than 10 CDs as a leader and countless other recordings.