

The BEAT FREAKS

A band founded in 2014 by Michał Starkiewicz (guitar), who invited to cooperation Tomek Licak (tenor saxophone) and Paweł Grzesiuk (bass) and Radek Wośko who lives permanently in Copenhagen (drums).

The musicians collaborated and performed with such artists as: Tomasz Stańko, Adam Bałdych (Damage Control), Carl Winther, Piotr Baron, Grzegorz Turnau, Mika Urbaniak, Kasia Nosowska, Skubas, Jan Smoczyński, Mietek Szcześniak, Marcin Pospieszalski, Natalia Niemen, Michał Kulenty, Marek Kądziera, Anders Mogensen, Grażyna Łobaszewska, Grzegorz Grzyb, Cezary Konrad, Entrails United, Entropy, KRAN, Outbreak Quartet.

Achievements of team members:

- Grand Prix 49 Jazz on the Oder River 2013
- Grand Prix - Bielsko Jazz Balloon 2010
- Individual Award - Krokus Jazz Festival 2009

The musicians combined the experience gained in various musical formations and after a few sessions the material was created. It was presented in Szczecin in 2015 and at Christiania Jazz Club in Copenhagen in February 2016. The author of most of the compositions is the band's leader - Michał Starkiewicz. Both concerts were very warmly received by the audience, which resulted in a concert tour in Poland and entering the studio. In March 2016, the band recorded their debut album at Studio Soyuz in Łódź, which premiered in October that year.

The **debut album "Leon"** was released on the market by Gateway Music from Denmark. The album was very warmly received by both music critics and musicians. Since then, the band has performed many concerts in Poland, also performing at the following festivals: Szczecin Jazz, Spring Jazz Meetings, Hanza Jazz Festival. The album was included in the **TOP TEN 2016** jazz records by journalists PolishJazz.blogspot.

In 2018, the band composed and recorded music for the documentary film about August Zamoyski "Sculptor with a camera", which was presented live during the Krakow Film Festival or the OKO Festival in Bydgoszcz.

In 2018, the band was in the top ten of '**Jazz Electric Bands**' and also in the '**Jazz Band New Hope**' category according to JazzForum readers.

The next album called „Stay Calm” was released in 2019. There are 13 original tracks, recorded in Studio Monochrom. The album gained recognition among critics in Poland and abroad. The band was in the TOP 10 best electric jazz bands in 2019 according to the "Jazz Forum" magazine.

Currently, the band is working on the next album, which will be released in 2023.

The musicians escape from the clichés of jazz forms, proposing music that is a kind of story. In their music we find inspirations and borrowings from Slavic, folk, ethnic and even rock music. At the same time, the band's music remains fresh, referring to the sound of contemporary jazz. The hallmark of the band is an unusual and open approach to the form of the song and the arrangement.

THE BAND

Michał Starkiewicz - guitar

Tomasz Licak - tenor saxophone

Flavio Gullotta - double bass

Radek Wośko - drums