

**VIBES. THE ESSENCE OF THE MOMENT. BLACK & WHITE  
PHOTOGRAPHY OF BERLIN JAZZ DAYS BY AXEL BENZMANN,  
10.3.-24.3.2023**

An exhibition of the BROWSE GALLERY, partner of European Month of Photography 2023 and with friendly support from Berliner Festspiele / Berliner Jazzfest.

Side program

**Jazz Performance Zam Johnson's Cool Vibes Trio**

**15.3.2023, 7 pm**

**Location: in den exhibition space, Zimmer 48, Zossenerstr. 48, 10961 Berlin**

**Entrance fee: 5€, [Ticket-Reservation](#)** (necessary, if you want to make sure to get in, 25 places only)

**Zam Johnson, musician (drums), composer, performance artist**

Zam Johnson was born in Los Angeles in 1948. He grew up in Watts, Los Angeles and has lived in Berlin since the late 80s.

At the age of 13 Zam decided to play the drums, then came the high school band. At first, however, he didn't play jazz, but rock, which was in vogue at the time. Zam only discovered bebop and modern jazz of the early 60s as a musician via a detour: fusion jazz. In his college days he was enthusiastic about Larry Coryell, Tony Williams, Chick Corea, Miles Davis, John McLaughlin and Herbie Hancock. What interested him in their music was musical fusion and the new possibilities of electronic music. Soon he began experimenting with his own synthesizer compositions. He studied the best drummers of his time and discovered: many outstanding drummers of rock bands came from jazz. They became his teachers. From all this, Zam made his own fusion. He becomes a sought-after concert and studio musician of various musical genres in Los Angeles. He plays with Tom Petty, Iron Butterfly, Ray Charles Singers, Ike Turner, The Beach Boys, among others.

In the early eighties, Zam began using his synthesizer work for avant-garde film and dance. This brought him to Berlin. At that time, he regularly played in the city's most sophisticated jazz clubs, the Quasimodo or the A-Trane. He performed at major concerts and festivals in Germany and internationally, recorded numerous records and CDs with Ulli Lenz, Bob Lennox, Eddie Harris, Ulli Bartel and many others.

Today Zam is a master on drums and percussion in various styles of jazz, rock, funk, blues, gospel, Motown. He is also an expert in electronic effects and sound scores. Together with painter Norton Wisdom, he founded "The Science And Industry Performing Art Group." Together they toured the USA and Europe. Together with Carmelo Leotta he gave jazz workshops in Genoa with Benny Golson, Buster Williams, Horace Parlan and many others.

## **David Beecroft, musician (saxophone)**

was born in Toronto in 1956 and grew up in a musical environment. He started piano lessons at the age of 9, but by 12 he had fallen in love with the tenor saxophone (his father's horn) and decided to follow in his footsteps. He often got to hear his father play at the local jazz clubs on weekends and later "joined in" on his father's jam sessions. At the age of 17, he formed his own sextet. He also played in various jazz groups in Toronto and across Canada. In 1992 he went to San Diego, California to play with Chris Connor in his 7-piece jazz band. In 1994 he began playing with jazz singer Chris Bennett, with whom he continues to work today. At that time he moved to Berlin and since then he has been one of the most famous jazz musicians in the city.

Beecroft gave performances as a guest soloist in the orchestra of the "Drei Groschen Oper" at the Deutsches Theater. He plays regularly in all major Berlin jazz clubs such as the A-Train, Schlot, Quasimodo, French Quarter, Badischer Hof etc. and for special concerts in churches, the Lapidarium or in museums and galleries. Since 1998 he has been playing and touring for Jazz Radio Berlin. In 2000 he started producing and engineering recordings for artists like Georgio Crobu, Ekkehard Wölk, Pepe Berns, Wolfgang Köhler, "Night Train" and many others. In collaboration with Jazzagentur Berlin he started a project to document jazz musicians\* in Berlin.

## **Carmelo Leotta, musician (double bass) and composer**

born in 1975, has been a professional musician since 1999, embracing the diversity of musical currents such as jazz, blues, electronic and ethnic music. He started his career as an electric bass player in various blues bands in Italy and today he is a double bass player and composer. As an arranger, producer and composer, he has released four solo albums.

In 2005 he met Bobby Durham and formed a trio with him and Massimo Faraò until Durham's death in 2008. Carmelo Leotta found his standing in the Italian jazz scene and toured frequently with American jazz musicians such as Archie Shepp, Benny Golson, Jimmy Cobb, Mickey Roker, Michele Hendricks and many others. Leotta composed various musical pieces and recorded four records as a leader. He assisted Buster Williams and other American bassists in workshops and taught regularly in music schools and privately. Since 2014, Leotta has been living in Berlin, where he is involved in numerous international music projects. Leotta was musical director in the famous clubs "Badehaus" and "Neue Heimat" and performed with many bands in A-Train Jazz Club, B Flat and all over Germany.

**Exhibition: VIBES. THE ESSENCE OF THE MOMENT. Black & White Photos of Berlin Jazz Days by Axel Benzmann, 11.3.-24.3.2023**

Opening times: Mo-Su 2 – 8 pm

Exhibition opening: March 10, 7 pm

Entrance free

Location: Zimmer 48, Zossenerstr. 48, 10961 Berlin

More: <https://www.browse.gallery>