

MATHIAS RUPPNIG

drummer, composer and educator



Austrian drummer and composer **Mathias Ruppnig** is an in-demand musician of the European jazz scene. With his own project "SCOPES" he tours Europe and Asia regularly. He completed both a Bachelor and Master's Degree at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. As a leader and composer he released five records on well-established labels such as British-based Whirlwind Recordings. He collaborated with musicians like David Liebman, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Jim Rotondi, Ben van Gelder, China Moses or Justin Stanton (Snarky Puppy).

Ruppnig appeared on several international Jazz Festivals. For example Jazzfestival Saalfelden, CULLY Jazzfestival, Inntöne Jazzfestival, Jazz in the Park in Romania, the Alfa Jazz Fest in Ukraine or Jazzmandu Jazzfestival in Nepal.

In 2014, he won the "Downbeat Award for College Graduate Outstanding Performance" in the Latin group category with the KUG Composers' Ensemble. Since 2018 Mathias is a member of "Tobias Meinhart Berlin People (Sunnyside Records) and in February 2022 he performed with the Kurt Rosenwinkel Trio at the Grillo-Theater in Essen, Germany.

- born 28.12.1986 in Oberpullendorf, Austria
- 1992-1998 lessons in drumset and classical percussion in the class of Günter Meinhart
- till the age of 19 autodidact education, parallel finishing high school and playing in several Rock, Pop and Punkrock Bands
- 2007 beginning the Studies for Jazz Drums at the Kunsthochschule Graz
- 2012 graduation with honors for the bachelor's programme "Jazz Drums" and the bachelor's programme "Music Education Jazz" from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria
- afterwards taking part of the master's programme "Jazz Drums" at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria, studying with Howard Curtis
- furthermore active as a composer, April 2012: Debut album release as a bandleader and composer (Mathias Ruppnig - square) on the well-known Viennese Jazz-Label "Session Work Records"
- 2012 - 2013 active as a drum teacher at the "Studio Percussion School" Graz, Austria
- October 2013 CD release of "The Spinning" on "Session Work Records", distribution: "Harmonia Mundi"

- 2014 WINNER of the 37th Annual "DOWNBEAT" Student Music Award, with: KUG Composers Ensemble feat. Marco Antonio da Costa, in the category: Latin Group - Graduate College Outstanding Performance
- 2014 graduation with honors for the master's programme "Jazz Drums" from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria
- from October 2014 member of the "EBU - European Jazz Orchestra", to represent the national radio ORF for Austria
- June 2015 CD release of "Radio Liberty" on "Listen Closely Records"
- 2016 monthly concert series (Donau Conversations) at Jazz Club Donau115 (listed under best 10 Jazz Clubs in Europe by THE GUARDIAN) in Berlin
- August 2016 India/Sri Lanka – Tour with the co-leading group DACH
- April 2018 co-leading group SCOPES (w/ Ben van Gelder, Tony Tixier & Tom Berkmann) European tour + album recording
- June 2018 joining the Tobias Meinhart European Quartet
- recording for Sunnyside Records with the Tobias Meinhart 4tet & Kurt Rosenwinkel
- November 2018 India/Nepal – Tour with the co-leading group DACH
- March 29th 2019 release of “SCOPES” self titled with Whirlwind Recordings (worldwide)
- March 2019 European tour with Tobias Meinhart and Kurt Rosenwinkel
- August 2019 cover story of Austria’s biggest music magazine for Jazz, Blues and Pop (issue 4/2019)
- 2018 – 2019 touring Europe with “Scopes” (England, Switzerland, France, Austria, Germany, Spain, Slovenia)
- September 2021 release of SCOPES – “Age of Reason” for Whirlwind Recordings (UK)
- November 2021 South America – Tour with Tobias Meinhart

- **workshops/lessons with:**

John Hollenbeck, Kendrick Scott, Jeff Ballard, Billy Hart, Peter Erskine, Jochen Rueckert, Jimmy Cobb, Howard Curtis, Christian Salfellner, Günter Meinhart, Uli Rennert, Miguel Zenon, Henry Cole, John Abercrombie, Bob Brookmeyer, Johannes Enders, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Adam Nussbaum, Ed Partyka

- **collaborated with (artists):**

Kurt Rosenwinkel, Jim Rotondi, Justin Stanton, Doug Weiss, Ben van Gelder, David Liebman, Tony Tixier, Manickam Yugeswaran, Tom Guarna, Josh Ginsburg, Tino Derado, Phil Donkin, Tobias Meinhart, Lorenz Kellhuber, Patrice Heral, Andrej Prozorov, Klaus Dickbauer, Johannes Dickbauer, Vadim Neselovskyi, Luis Bonilla, Johannes Fink, Wanja Slavin, Juan Garcia Herreros, Christian Bakanic, Kenneth Dahl Knudsen, Malte Schiller, Dena DeRose, Jure Pukl, David Six, Selen Gülnün, Viola Hammer, Matthias Bartolomey, Tuomo Uusitalo, Asja Valcic, Heinrich von Kalnein

- **collaborated with (bands):**

Tobias Meinhart "Berlin People", SCOPES, Jim Rotondi Electric Band, Tony Tixier Trio, Dickbauer Collective, EBU - European Jazz Orchestra 2014, JAZZKOMBINAT Hamburg, DACH, GANNA (Ganna Gryniva), Kenneth Dahl Knudsen Orchestra, Viola Hammer Trio, Defcon, JmKanes, Ira Atari

- **CD productions (as a "leader"):**

Mathias Ruppnig - square

(SWR 39/12 - www.sessionworkrecords.com)

Mathias Ruppnig - The Spinning

(SWR 57/13 - www.sessionworkrecords.com)

DACH - Radio Liberty

(Listen Closely 17 – www.listenclosely.at)

SCOPES - "Scopes" (Ben van Gelder, Tony Tixier, Tom Berkmann, Mathias Ruppnig) ([Whirlwind Recordings - www.whirlwindrecordings.com](http://www.whirlwindrecordings.com))

SCOPES - "Age of Reason" (Matt Chalk, Tony Tixier, Tom Berkmann, Mathias Ruppnig) ([Whirlwind Recordings - www.whirlwindrecordings.com](http://www.whirlwindrecordings.com))

DIPLOMAT - "Dem Deutschen Jazz" (Berthold Records – www.berthold-records.de)

- **CD productions (as a "sideman"):**

Vitalii Kyianytsia Trio – Last Day of Spring

(Double Moon Records 2022)

KNUDSEN / RUDZINSKIS – Space Big Band

(Double Moon Records 2021)

GANNA – Dyki Lys

(Double Moon Records and Jazz Thing Next Generation 2020)

Filipe Duarte Quartet – Room in the Middle

(SHOEBILL Music 2020)

York Trio – Day Trip

(Independent Release 2019)

Tobias Meinhart Quartet & Kurt Rosenwinkel – Berlin People

(Sunnyside 2019)

Daniel Weltlinger Quartet – Szolnok

(DMG Germany/Rectify Records 2019)

Earshot – Tell No One

(Unit Records 2018)

Thijs de Klijn Quintet – Factotum

(Flyin' High Records 2018)

Dickbauer Collective – The Very Last Universe

(Schiffbau Records 2017)

Timothy Verdesca – Berlin Suit

(QFTF Records 2017)

Viola Hammer - Close Up

(UTR 45/00 – Unit Records)

Dyki Lys – City Hunter

(Independent Release 2016)

Kenneth Dahl Knudsen Orchestra – We'll Meet In The Rain

(Two Rivers Records 2016)

EBU Euroradio Jazz Orchestra - In Prague

(CR0775-2 - Czech Radio 2015)

Defcon – This Age Of Entitlement

(Pate Records 2011)

- **pedagogy:**

October 2012 till July 2013 teaching at the "STUDIO PERCUSSION School Graz"

Since April 2014 teaching at the "tutti&solo" musicschool in Berlin, Pankow (Berlin's larges private music school)

Teacher and mentor at the JazzKukko Worshop & Festival in Finnland, Laitila

- **festivals (short list):**

Jazz in the Park Festival (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Palatia Jazz Festival (Mannheim, Germany)

Seixal Jazzfestival (Seixal, Portugal)

Humboldt Jazzfestival (Quito, Ecuador)

Jazzweekend Unterföhring (Munich, Germany)

Jazz Festival Saalfelden (Saalfelden, Austria)

Jazzrally Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Germany)

CULLY Jazz Festival (Cully, Switzerland)

Bayerisches Jazzweekend (Regensburg, Germany)

Jazzmandu Festival (Kathmandu, Nepal)

Music Matters Festival (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

JAZZ FEST Wien (Porgy & Bess Wien Vienna, Austria)

KIM Fest Berlin (Prachtwerk Berlin, Germany)

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ at the Old Town Square FESTIVAL (Warsaw, Poland)

ALFA JAZZ FEST (Lviv, Ukraine)

Jazz Goes To Town Festival (Hradci Králové, Czech Republic)

Contemporary Music Festival: Composers and Performers (Palermo, Italy)

Trnavsky Jazzyk Festival (Trnava, Slovakia)

INNtöne Jazz Festival (Diersbach, Austria)

Kunstbunker Music and Art Festival (Duga Resa, Croatia)

Jazzwerkstatt Graz Festival (Graz, Austria)

UNESCO International Jazz Day (Porgy & Bess Wien, Austria)

MOJJAJIK Jazz Festival (Velenje, Slovenia)

Herbstzeitlose Festival (Graz, Austria)

JAZZliebe Festival (Dom Penine, Slovenia)

- "what the press says":

Easily the best part of *Radio Liberty* are how the bouts of melancholia inevitably lead to celebratory bursts of euphoria. Time and time again, the quartet **DACH** slip into reveries of the deepest contemplation, where melodic snowdrifts scatter across the surface of songs and rhythmic patter is the soft rustle of branches in the stiff breeze or the barely perceptible tapping of snowflakes on the window pane. And, time and time again, these gorgeous contemplative lulls bring about the conclusion that life is good and worth celebrating, and what better way than with some up-tempo dancing and lots and lots of warmth and sunlight.

(*Dave Sumner, Bird Is The Worm*)

Die Kompositionen und Arrangements - sie stammen allesamt von Mathias Ruppnig - zeugen von einem umfassenden musikalischen Verständnis, eine Eigenschaft, die ihm aus dem Kollektiv der Jazzschlagzeuger zusätzlich hervorhebt. Ein rundum gelungenes Album eines vielversprechenden Jugend Talents. (*Jörg Weitlaner, Concerto*)

Wenn diese 13 Stücke des Jazzsilberlings „The Spinning“ nicht ausreichen, für Jazz zu begeistern!

(*Christopher Dömges, Die Redaktion*)

Mit seinem eben erschienenen zweiten Album „The Spinning“ (Session Work Records) soll nun eine weitere Bestätigung seines außergewöhnlichen musikalischen Verständnisses erfolgen. Und lauscht man den neuen Nummern des Schlagzeugers und seines Ensembles, darf man zum Schluss kommen, dass der junge Musiker tatsächlich ein Gespür für richtig klasse Jazznummern hat.

(*Michael Ternai, Musikburgenland*)

Obwohl die Band unter dem Namen des Schlagzeugers agiert, ist dieser nicht vordergründig aktiv. Allerdings ist er es, der hauptsächlich für die Lebendigkeit sorgt.

(*Wolfgang Giese, Rocktimes*)

Man merkt den Musikern an, keinen Parforceritt reiten zu wollen, sondern sie sind redlich darum bemüht, einen homogenen, intelligenten Sound anzubieten, der sich jedoch nicht dem Mainstream anbiedert. Das Brummkreiselkarussell darf sich also ruhig weiter drehen.

(sound&image)

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