

Foreign Affair Trio



Listening to the Foreign Affair Trio, one is captivated by the ever-present energy and rhythmic pulse at the heart of the melodic line. Inventiveness, surprises, and whimsical flair abound—mesmerizing and always elevated by an unwavering tempo that generates unrelenting vitality. (Jacques Biolley)

Hector Martignon and Raphael Nick have shared many stages and projects before meeting Eduardo “Dudu” Penz. From their very first performances, the chemistry was instant, revealing a natural synergy among these three extraordinary musicians.

The Foreign Affair Trio brings a unique, Grammy Nominated brand of Latin Jazz with heavy South American accents. Drawing from their multicultural roots (Switzerland, Colombia, Brazil), the trio delivers original compositions where intricate harmonies meet the sensual grooves of South American and the Caribbean. The result is vibrant, nomadic music, balancing bold improvisation with sunlit melodies.

Their album "Sous Le Vent" (Zoho Music, NY) was released in 2024, followed by a tour across Europe, New York, and Puerto Rico.

The trio:

Hector Martignon piano

Eduardo Dudu Penz basse

Raphael Nick drum

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Hector Martignon

Hector Martignon, a native of Colombia, has performed, recorded, composed and produced in a myriad of styles for his own projects as well as for many of the world's top musicians.

Three of his works have been nominated for a Grammy Award: in 1994 for Best Latin Jazz Performance with the album "Taboo" and in 2007 and 2010 for Best Latin Jazz Album with "Refugee" and "Second Chance" respectively.

His great talent allows him to finance his studies of classical piano and composition at the prestigious Freiburger Musikhochschule in Germany, by performing and recording with the best Afro-Cuban and Brazilian groups of the moment such as Celia Cruz, Ismael Quitana, Tata Guinness or Arturo Sandoval.

After relocating to New York, Hector Martignon continues to be one of the most sought-after recording-, and performing Latin jazz pianists, touring all five continents.

In particular, Hector Martignon was Ray Barretto's pianist for eight years, which was instrumental in defining the sound of the famous "New World Spirit Sextet". He also toured and recorded with stars such as Mongo Santamaria, Gato Barbieri, Steve Turre and Don Byron.



Eduardo "Dudu" Penz

Bassist, composer and arranger Dudu Penz, born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, started playing guitar at the age of 9. He was noticed at the age of 14 when he started playing electric bass, which allowed him to play and record in different bands in Brazil.

Dudu Penz played for the first time in Europe in 1985 and settled there permanently in 1987. He continued his career playing with different bands and artists, touring the most prestigious clubs and festivals around the globe.

His enormous talent, his radiant personality, his dynamism associated with his great stability, make Dudu Penz one of the most appreciated and solicited bassists well beyond Europe and Brazil. It is therefore very natural that he performs and records with many artists and groups such as Tamanduá, Mercadonegro, Queen of Salsa Celia Cruz, Jazz Via Brasil Group, Julio Barretto Quartet, Tony Martinez & Cuban Power, Alfredo de la Fé, Cheo Feliciano, Raul de Sousa, Jimmy Bosch, David Valentin, Giovanni Hidalgo, Donaflor band, Leny Andrade, N.Y. Salsa all Stars, etc.

Eclectic bassist, good teacher and undoubtedly a specialist in Brazilian and Latin music, Dudu Penz is regularly asked to give workshops and masterclasses in many European jazz schools.



Raphael Nick

Drummer, percussionist, teacher and composer, Raphael Nick has built his career from childhood, in traditional and classical bands in the Lucerne region, until obtaining his Master's degree at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Lausanne in 2011.

Driven by the discovery of new horizons and guided by the exploration of various styles and modes of expression, Raphael performs in musical formations with very diverse styles such as Latin jazz, swing, free jazz, rock, classical music, as well as on European, South American and North African stages.

His talent, the strength of his subtle, stable and eclectic playing, as well as his constant search for evolution and perseverance allowed him to lead the band - Nolosé - to Cuba and to obtain a Premio CubaDisco in the international category in 2014. He continues to explore new ways of expressing himself in projects that combine different art forms and media.

Raphael continues to cultivate his taste for exchange and transmission of knowledge within the Geneva Conservatory of Music and beyond in various projects with an educational and artistic vocation.