
Laia Genc -

Piano, Composition, Arrangement

Laia is a freelance musician living and working in the rich Cologne music scene and playing all around Europe and in the world with her own projects as well as a sidewoman.

Laia is a proud holder of several European jazzensemble prizes as well as solopianoprizes that she awarded whether on her own or with her pianotrio "LiaisonTonique" which is the heart of her work since 2005. Since then the band has recorded it's third cd and is playing concerts all around the world.

To a lot of projects she adds a special colour as a sensitive soundpainteress, improviser, composer and arranger in her own particular way of mixing Jazz, free improvisation and lots of musical charme to an unmistakable sound. Her extended piano techniques give Laia the freedom to fully explore the borders between composed structures and improvisational freedom.

Laia graduated her studies in jazzpiano at the conservatory in Cologne/Germany with some brave teachers, among them John Taylor in 2006. During her studies Laia lived in Paris for one year and studied at the Conservatoire national supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. This year in France for her became one of the most inspiring and onleading periods of her studies.

Since she has started playing extensively in 2006 she has been traveling and working musicwise in Luxemburg, Italy, France, Norway, Lithuania, Haiti, Belgium, The Netherlands and Australia. In Australia she toured in 2009 with her LiaisonTonique and Adam Simmons as special guest on the saxophones.

If there is a chance for a new and challenging collaboration it's mostly ever an attractive offer for her to take. She has always been interested in combining ideas, combining different stiles of music and to grow them into something special.



2015:

- Winterjazz Köln, Solopiano
- two more VegaJam concerts at the Theater Klüngelpütz in Köln
- tour throughout Germany with „Lines For Ladies“ (Anne Czichowsky / Sabine Kühlich) feat. Kristin Korb
- concert in Berlin with the Duo „FOCUS“
- concerts with LiaisonTonique in Germany
- concert with Adrienne Haan in NYC
- concert with LiaisonTonique at EXPO 2015 in Milano at the German Pavillon
- concert with Caroline Thon´s Thonline Orchestra in Passau, Lissboa
- season´s opening concert Stadgarten Köln, Solopiano together with Johanna Borchert, Alexander Hawkins and Havard Wiik

2014:

- concert with the Thonline Orchestra in „Porgy & Bess“ in Vienna, Dornbirn „Spielboden“
- concerts with KALIMA in Turkey, Jazzfestival Izmir and in Ankara, in Luxemburg and France
- concerts with LiaisonTonique at the Vossa Jazz Festival (Norway) and in Paris

- „Lines For Ladies“ at the Festival „Women In Jazz“ in Halle / Germany and at the „Theatertage Stuttgart“
- concerts in may with the Duo „FOCUS“
- Jazzfest Bonn with the project CHISHOLM | GENC | OETZ „Inspirations From Béla Bartók“
- CD recordings with Sabine Kühlich „Singing & Swinging Brubeck“ - A Tribute To The Great Dave Brubeck
- concert at the International Voicefestival „Voices“ mit Elena Ledda / Laia Genc Duo at Kulturgut Holzhausen
- concert with Ilona Haberkamp Quartett
- concert with KALIMA at Philharmonie Luxemburg
- concert with S(w)inging Brubeck at the Beethovenfest Bonn
- from August until dezember I live and work as an artist in residence, funded by the north-rhinewestfalian art foundation in Istanbul
- concert with „Lines For Ladies“ in the well known Jazz Club Nardis in Istanbul
- tour troughout Germany with „Lines For Ladies“ and the Jazzlegend Sheila Jordan und Kristin Korb
- concert with LiaisonTonique in the well known Jazz Club Nardis in Istanbul
- with saxophonist Meike Goosmann Tour to Myanmar, concert at the International Jazzfestival and Workshop
- „Jazz Mit Kick“ plays concerts for kids, a concert row „Philharmonie Veedel“ organized by the Cologne Philharmonics
- recording the second CD of the Thoneline Orchestra „Black And White Swan“
- installing and playing a first concert with the „Istanbul Composer´s Orchestra“

2013:

- This year anew starts with the great WinterJazzKöln Festival, this time with Caroline Thon´s Band Patchwork
- CD Release of the new CD of the group KALIMA „Everything Within“
- CD Release of the CD „Hipp Is Cool Is Hipp“, a Tribut CD to the first german Jazzpianistin Jutta Hipp, together with the Ilona Haberkamp Quartett
- CD releasekonzerts in Luxemburg and in Paris with KALIMA in der Cité Universitaire
- CD release of the recording „TALISMAN“, my own trio „Laia Genc LiaisonTonique“
- Together with our studio team „Tonstudio Der Welt“ we worked at a production for German TV „Der Goldene Tabaluga“
- concert with the Duo „FOCUS“ at the Hildener Jazztagen
- concert of the Alessandro Palmitessa / Elena Ledda Banda at the Eucharistiekongresses in Lanxess Arena Köln

- „Headphoneconcert“ in Duo with Jens Düppe in his concertconceptrow Kommunikation 9
- Solospot at the season opening of the Stadtgarten „Rebirth Of The Steinway“ together with Julia Hülsmann, Georg Ruby, Pablo Held, Simon Rummel and Hans Lüdeman
- concert with Elena Ledda / Laia Genc Duo at „Nachsommerfestival“ initiated by Christian Schoke
- Solopiano at the opening of the Kölner Theaternacht
- Artistic programming of the concept „VegaJam“ des Theater Klüngelpütz in Köln
- concerts at the Jazztage Berlin with „Hipp Is Cool Is Hipp“ a project realized by the saxophonist Ilona Haberkamp, a tribute to the legendary and first to be internationally known female German jazzpianist Jutta Hipp

2012:

- fulminant begins the year with the premiere of „WinterJazzKöln“, a new born festival, LiaisonTonique could be part of it
- recordings with LiaisonTonique
- successfull debut of the „Ensemble Mizard“ in Cologne in St. Maria Lyskirchen
- debut concert of a new project: Elena Ledda and Laia Genc in Duo in Cagliari / Sardinia
- presentation of the programm „Songs From The Edge“ written by Hazel Leach in Berlin together with Simin Tander
- end of may concerts in Cologne and the region together with Adam Simmons (Australia), CD-Release of „Australia & Beyond“
- tour with KALIMA, concerts amongst others in Prague and Warschau
- recordings with KALIMA
- a tour throughout Germany with the Thonline Orchestra conducted by Caroline Thon

2011:

- reopening of the project „ Cantieri Delle Minieri“
- concerts with the THONELINE Orchestra directed by Caroline Thon
- concerts with the band „Lagash“
- concerts with the Terrence Ngassa Band
- debut of my new project „BAHAR“ at the festival „Frühling der Kulturen“ in Cologne, mit Esra Dalfidan, Jörg Brinkmann und Christoph Hillmann
- Kalima is invited to the Jazzfestival in Burkina Faso „Jazz á Ouaga“, unfortunately we had to respect the developments and politics in the country and for those reasons couldn't travel there. We hope the situation will develop for the best, so we can visit Burkina Faso another time!
- successfull concerts in duo together with Sabine Kühlich und dem Projekt „Singing Brubeck and Swinging Brubeck“
- realisation of a tour of schoolconcerts, „Jazz Mit Kick Schultour 2011“, we

- worked in 4 schools, giving concerts and workshops
- recordings for the project „ Ensemble Mizard“, an adaption of psalms in collaboration with Johannes Lemke (saxophone) and Ulrich Cordes (tenor)

2010:

- in January recording with the project PLoTS, “Songs From The Edge” by Hazel Leach (see: www.myspace.com/songsfromtheedge)
- concerts with “Astragali” (see: www.myspace.com/astragali)
- in February CD Release concert of “Kalima / Album” in Luxemburg
- in March “Laia Genc LiaisonTonique 5” is playing concerts at the Izmir Jazzfestival and in Ankara / Turkey
- in July Recordings and concerts in duo with the amazing Sébastien Boisseau on double bass, recording is to be released in 2011
- Concerts with Kalima in France
- in August “Cantieri Delle Minieri” songs about the coal mining and the miner’s lifes
- in September Solo Piano concert invited by the Goethe Institute of Amsterdam
- Big workshop project for kids with a final concert
- In October concerts with “LiaisonTonique 5”
- Together with the singer Sabine Kühlich we prepare a “Dave Brubeck Tribute” and have already played some concerts with this repertoire

2009:

- in January concert in Oslo with the LiaisonTonique
- in February concerts in the Netherlands with the LiaisonTonique
- concerts with PLoTS a new project with Simin Tander, Tessa Zoutendijk and Esmee Olthuis, the project is developing music throughout the year
- concert with the Terrence Ngassa Band at Düsseldorfer Jazzrally
- in August Kalima won the public price at the beautiful Avignon Jazz Festival
- in october CD release of “Laia Genc LiaisonTonique 5 – Polyfangastronomia”
- from mid october until mid november LiaisonTonique toured Australia
- in december “Jazz Mit Kick” again very successfully presented a new concert for kids
- recording with “LiaisonTonique”, recording is to be released in 2011)

2008:

- LiaisonTonique is invited to perform at the german jazz convention “jazzahead” in April
- LiaisonTonique is invited to the national competition “Startbahn Jazz”, belonging to the festival “Jazz an der Donau”
- Concert with the Terrence Ngassa Band at the Semperoper in Dresden in April

- Pianosolo at Jazzfestival Rheine in May
- I was invited by the German ambassador to give soloconcerts in Haiti in May
- Kalima, a german-luxemburgish trio was invited to Preveza Jazz Festival – Greece and several venues in Luxemburg
- Pianosolo in Luxemburg in June
- 2nd place at the Solopianocompetition “Jazz Improvizacija” in Vilnius Lithuania
- in October we realised a tour troughout Germany with the LiaisonTonique
- in November I invited Alban Darche, Daniel Casimir and Sébastien Boisseau from France for concerts and a recording session for the new CD to be out next year
- in November / December “Jazz Mit Kick” was invited by the “Tonhalle Düsseldorf” and further on the Cologne Philhamonic programm for kids to perform for a whole week
- in December we had a very successful concert for kids with “Jazz Mit Kick” in cooperation with the conservatory for music in Cologne
- invitation to Nijmegen “jazz@lib” a concert row at “De Lindenberg” directed by Bo van de Graa

2007:

- January 2007, Incontri Internazionali Della Musica in Salerno/Italy with LiaisonTonique
- May 2007 Musiktriennale Köln, a festival in all genres, I was happy to be able to invite Daniel Casimir and Alban Darche from France to play with my trio the “LiaisonTonique”
- June 2007 LanaMusik Jazzfestival (Austria)with Miss Jones Orchestra
- September 2007 I won the 3rd price of the Freiburger JazzHaus pianocompetition “In memorial to Waldi Heidepriem”
- in October I was honored with a price from the city of Cologne “Cologne Jazz Price 07 – Horst and Gretl Will Scholarship”
- October: Wdr3.jazzcologne 07, LiaisonTonique was playing the first half of a concert evening together with Sylvie Courvoisier’s “Mephista”
- “Jazz Mit Kick” played some really beautiful concerts for kids

2006:

- in march 2006 graduation from the conservatory in Cologne as a performing artist as well as an educator
- since then I play the piano in different groups, the most important are: LiaisonTonique, Kalima and the Terrence Ngassa Band
- I started playing more and more concerts since 2001, since my homepage is not ready anyone who might be interested can go to “google” to find out about my status as a musician more specified or come back later for a fine webspace (early summer 2011 should be reasonable)

- Since 2006 I teach jazzcombos and pianostudents at a musicschool in Cologne
- In 2006 I've been invited to Antwerp and Rome for concerts with the LiaisonTonique and to Hungary with the PyromanDuo and played some important venues in Cologne during the summer
- July 2006 with the PyromanDuo winner in the genre Jazz of the "Torneo Internazionale Della Musica" which took place in Rome
- September 2006 I took part in the first round of the pianocompetition "Martial Solal" in Paris
- From October 2006 to June 2007 I played piano as a guestmusicians on stage in a show at the theatre in Düsseldorf
- November 2006 with the PyromanDuo playing a concert in Luxemburg for the concert row "Aphrodite's Sisters"

2005:

- with "LiaisonTonique" I won the 3rd price as a soloist at the competition "Jazz á La Défense" in Paris
- "LiaisonTonique" was invited as the first international band to the final round of the italian competiton "BargaJazz"
- "LiaisonTonique" won the 3rd prize at the italian competition "etno music competition" at Milano

2004-05:

- in April 2004 the Laia Genc Trio wins the "International Biberacher Jazz Preis"
- from September 2004 until July 2005 exchangestudent in Paris at the "Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris", during the course lessons with Hervé Sellin, Francois Théberge and Riccardo Del Fra
- in different workshops and masterclasses I met Richie Beirach, Billy Heart, Anders Jormin, MarcJohnson, Adam Nussbaum, Enrico Rava, Manfred Schoof, Aly Keita, Paolo Alvarez, Hans Lüdemann, Frank Gratkowski, Keith Copeland, Tom Van der Geld and others

before 2004:

- born on the 11th of April 1978 in Berlin
- 1997-99 member of the "LandesJugendJazzOrchester Berlin" (youth bigband of the state of Berlin) conducted by Georg Ruby, touring to Barcelona in 1998, in 1999 the band was conducted by Alexander von Schlippenbach
- 1998-2000 preparing studies for the conservatory at the music school in Berlin with Bardo Henning
- 2000-2006 studies of jazzpiano at the conservatory of Cologne with Hubert Nuß and from 2002 on with Prof. John Taylor
- singing lessons as second instrument until 2003

- member in the “LandesJugendJazzOrchester NRW” (youth bigband of the state of Northrhinewestfalia) from October 2001 until October 2003, touring to Greece, Korea, Spain and Marocco
- from September 2001 until September 2003 member of the “BuJazzO” (youth bigband of Germany) conducted by Peter Herbolzheimer, during this period intensive work at the piano with Prof. John Taylor and Rob Madna
- 2001, 2002 and 2003 taking part in a youngster competition in Leipzig “Leipziger Nachwuchswettbewerb” with in the first year a jazzquartet, in the following the “Terrence Ngassa Band” and in 2003 with the “Laia Genc Trio”
- with the “Terrence Ngassa Band, concerts in and around Cologne

Festivals:

- **Jazz á La Défense**, Incontri Internazionali Della Musica (Salerno/Italien), Jazz & Blues Festival Perth (Australien), **Wangaratta Jazz Festival (Australien)**, Traumzeitfestival, **Nancy Jazzfestival**, Jazz Rally Luxemburg, Jazz Rally Düsseldorf, Jazzfestival Viersen, **Izmir Jazz Festival (Türkei)**, **Vossa Jazz Festival (Norwegen)**, Women In Jazz Halle, Internationale Theatertage Stuttgart, WinterJazzKöln, Lana Jazz Festival, Jazzfest Hilden, **Jazzfest Bonn**, Beethovenfest Bonn, Kölner Musiknacht, Musik in den Häusern der Stadt (Köln, Frankfurt), Blue In Green Festival (Neuss)

Ensembles:

- “**Laia Genc LiaisonTonique**”, Jazzpianotrio, original compositions, free Improvisation, Standards
- „**BAHAR**“, a project about and with my half german half turkish roots
- „**Ensemble Mizard**“, with Johannes Lemke (Saxophon) and Ulrich Cordes (Tenor), Psalms in new compositions and arrangements
- “**Kalima**” , modern chamberjazz and imaginary folklore, a trio in between Luxemburg and Germany with Anne Kaftan (Saxophone, Bassclarinette) and Sascha Ley (Gesang)
- „**Elena Ledda & Laia Genc**“, a colorful, music of the world duoconcept, that is dealing with the blending of bardic and turkish traditions
- “**A Tribute To The Great Dave Brubeck**”, Dave Brubeck’s music in duo with the singer Sabine Kühlich
- „**THONELINE Orchestra**“, Big Band conducted and run by Caroline Thon
- Pianist of the singer **Adrienne Haan**
- „**Focus**“, Duo with the saxophonist Stephan Mattner

Recordings:

- **“Blue Art Orchestra”**, “The Topaz Session“ (2004)
- **“Laia Genc LiaisonTonique”**, “Trilogien” (2005)
- **“Pyroman Duo”**, “Handle With Care” (2006)
- **“Terrence Ngassa Band”** “Ngassology Vol.1” (2007)
- **“Jazz mit Kick”** (2007) “Die Musikweltmeisterschaft”, ein Jazzhörspiel für Kinder
- **“Laia Genc LiaisonTonique”**, “Strandgut” (2008)
- **“Terrence Ngassa Band”** “Ngassology Vol.2”(2008)
- **“Laia Genc LiaisonTonique 5”**, “Polyfangastronosia” (2009)
- **“Kalima”**, “Kalima”, (2010)
- **„Luigi Cinque“**, „Luna reversa“ (2010)
- **„THONELINE Orchestra“**, „Panta Rei“ (2011)
- **“Laia Genc LiaisonTonique”**, „Australia & Beyond“ (CD/DVD) (2012)
- **„Hazel Leach performed by PLoTS“**, „Songs From The Edge“ (2012)
- **„Nico Huijbregts“**, Dialogue Dreams (2012)
- **„Mizard“**, Ensemble Mizard (2012)
- **„KALIMA“**, „Everything Within“, (2013), Neuklang Records
- **„Ilona Haberkamp Quartett“**, „Cool Is Hipp Is Cool“ - A Tribute To Jutta Hipp (2013), Laika Records
- **„Laia Genc LiaisonTonique“**, „TALISMAN“ (2013), wismart records
- **„FOCUS“**, „FOCUS“, (2014), konnex records

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