

COLLECTIF KOA PRESENTS



# GRATITUDE TRIO BIRTH

2022

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## LINE UP

JEROEN VAN HERZEELE TENOR  
SAXOPHONE, EWI, MODULAR SYNTH  
ALFRED VILAYLECK ELECTRIC BASS  
LOUIS FAVRE DRUMS, PERCUSSIONS,  
VOICE

## INVITED

MICHEL ANDINA CITHARE, DILRUBA  
HÉLOÏSE VAN HERZEELE CHOIR  
SELIM VAN HERZEELE CHOIR  
ANNE VAN DER PLASCHE CHOIR

## DISCOGRAPHY

*BIRTH, September 2022*

RECORDING FROM 10 TO 14 SEPTEMBER  
2021

MIX & MASTERING, JANUARY 2022,  
STUDIO RED HOUSE, BRUSSELS, MICHEL  
ANDINA

PRODUCTION MERCURY, W.E.R.F.  
RECORDS, COLLECTIF KOA

PHOTOS MAËL G. LAGADEC

DISTRIBUTION N.E.W.S (BENELUX) L'AUTRE  
DISTRIBUTION (FRANCE) TBC

**« If they are achievements there should be flaws.  
It is necessary to know about flaws to attain higher  
achievements. »**

72 Arts of Shaoling, Jin Jing Zhong

- 01 - BIRTH
- 02 - FIRE
- 03 - RAVEN
- 04 - DANCING IN THE STORM
- 05 - ENBRACING LIFE
- 06 - ZED
- 07 - INTO THE CORE



After 11 years of existence, Gratitude Trio releases on **September 2nd 2022** its 4th album «**BIRTH**» on the famous Belgian label **W.E.R.F. RECORDS** in partnership with **Mercury** and **Collectif Koa** from Montpellier, France.

Protagonists Jeroen Van Herzeele, Alfred Vilayleck and Louis Favre worked for more than a year on this new album, continuing to develop the musical framework of the previous album: a blend of sensitivity and groove, contemplative vocals and raging solos.

Mixing acoustic and electronic sounds, the compositions reflect realities that inhabit them: to let oneself be touched by the beauty and the dark sides of life, to be amazed by Nature, to accept what we cannot change, to create bonds, to commit ourselves to fulfill ourselves.

A music that is both sophisticated and organic, with an energy and boldness that characterize them. The first single out of this album is the titletrack «BIRTH» and was officially released on **May 20th**. Enjoy this cosmic and spiritual electronic jazz trip.

## PRESENTATION

**Gratitude Trio** is a Belgian/French band based in Brussels known for their strength and sensitivity that opens people's hearts. The music of this power trio is tinged with spacy sounds, african rhythms, sexy grooves, endless trances, sensitive ballads, crazy free jazz and a large dose of unpredictable.

Gratitude exists since 2010 and has performed in prestigious venues in Europe. Their two first albums «**Gratitude**» and «**alive**» released in 2012 and 2015 under the label **el NEGOCITO Records** have been very well received by the critics (Le Soir, De Standaard, Jazzaround) and the enthusiastic audience.

The 3rd album «**Gratitude III**» was released in April 2018: new sound, new approach, but same soul. Gratitude Trio impressed! Indeed, voices and EWI (Electronic Wind Instrument) enrich the sound palette while the musicians have developed a new way to create together.



## NEXT GIGS

- 29th September 2022  
Jazz Station - Brussels  
[Belgium]
- 30th September 2022  
Amok Festival - Bruges  
[Belgium]
- 1st October 2022  
L'An Vert - Liege [Belgium]
- 3rd November 2022  
JAM - Montpellier [France]
- 4th November 2022  
Le Taquin - Toulouse [France]



## KEY DATES



<http://www.gratitudetrio.com/>

- 22nd May 2022 - Roskam - Brussels [Belgium]
- 18th May 2019 - Mithra Jazz at Liege Festival - Liege [Belgium]
- 19th November 2018 - Handelsbeurs - Gand [Belgium]
- 9th November 2018 - Koa Jazz Festival - Montpellier [France]
- 6th September 2018 - Jazz In het Park - Gand [Belgium]
- 15th June 2018 - Jazzdor - Strasbourg [France]
- 25th April 2018 - Jazz Station - Brussels [Belgium]
- 21st April 2018 - Confluent Jazz Festival - Namur [Belgium]
- 28th March 2017 - Jazzèbre - Perpignan [France]
- 29th November 2016 - STUK - Louvain [Belgium]
- 26th March 2016 - AJMI - Avignon [France]
- 14th January 2016 - Belgian Embassy in Berlin [Germany]
- 4th August 2015 - Jazz Middelheim Festival - Anvers [Belgium]
- 20th June 2015 - Jazz at the Bib - Zottegem [Belgium]
- 23rd May 2014 - Porgy and Bess, tribute to Toots Thielemans - Vienna [Austria]
- 2010 to 2017 - Brussels Jazz Marathon - Brussels [Belgium]

## PRESS REVIEW

### JEAN-CLAUDE VANTROYEN - LE SOIR - JUNE 2018

*«Here is an energetic album, extremely produced and worked, with atmospheric layers due to Van Herzeele's EWI and Favre's voices. Sexy bass lines and dancing drums as background, the adventurous music develops, with coltranian memories, power, madness, groove, but also reverie and spatio-psychedelic journeys. A rich and adventurous album to listen in loop.»*

### RADIO PANIK - NOVEMBER 2018

*«Gratitude Trio is a band known for its strength and its sensitivity that opens one's heart. The music of this power trio is tinged with African rhythms, endless trances, sensitive ballads, loose free jazz, a large dose of unpredictability and recently electronic sounds that offer a considerable sound palette. Their 3 albums (...) have been very well received by the press and the enthusiastic public coming at each of their concert.»*

- Jeroen Van Herzeele [saxophone]

Thanks to his musician father, Jeroen had the opportunity to play jazz standards on stage at a very young age. After short studies of classical saxophone, he dedicated his life to jazz and started to participate to workshops and seminars, while following courses at the Jazzstudio in Antwerp. Very soon, Jeroen explored other forms of music (freejazz, rock, blues, soul, gospel), clearly present in the recordings of Gratitude Trio. Jeroen has his own sound: intimate, spiritual and instinctive, a sound in tune with his soul. He is constantly trying to perfect jazz language, looking for an initiatory experience, facing the changes of a constantly changing world. He likes to go far in the improvisations carried by urban rhythms without losing the power of his acoustic music, his breath.

- Alfred Vilayleck [electric bass]

At 12, Alfred develops an interest in music through rock and especially Jimi Hendrix. Then, he quickly turns to jazz and improvisations. Graduated from the Perpignan and Strasbourg conservatories, he plays with several jazz bands before founding the Collectif Koa in Montpellier in 2008. He collaborates with Steve Coleman, Aka Moon, Magic Malik, Jim Black. Versatile accompanist and traveller musician, he plays with Serge Lazarévitch, Joël Allouche, Jeroen Van Herzeele, Julien Lourau, John Tchicaï, Pierre Van Dormael, Cherif Soumano. Currently, he leads the Grand Ensemble Koa, contributes to several bands such as Gratitude Trio, Peemai, Kunzit and recently the illustrated concert for kids Nefertiti. Alfred teaches jazz at the Conservatoire of Montpellier and also leads many Soundpainting projects.

- Louis Favre [drums]

Louis is a French drummer and composer living in Belgium since he started his music studies at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven in 2003. He holds a Master's degree in Jazz (thanks to the support of Dre Pallemmaerts and Pierre Van Dormael) and a teacher certificate. Before his studies at the Institute, he studied with Serge Lazarévitch and André Mallau at the Conservatory of Perpignan. As an accompanist, he played with great musicians such as Pierre Van Dormael, Ewout Pierreux, Philippe Aerts, Michel Hatzigeorgiou [Aka Moon], Manolo Cabras, Robin Verheyen, Joachim Saerens, Pieterjan Seaux, Steven Delannoye and Tuur Florizoone. He also played for several years with Lokomotiv, a touring band from Leuven led by Jo Zanders with whom he played in many festivals in Europe [Belgium, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, England, France]. In 2009, he played with Selah Sue for one year and together they composed great hits such as «This world» and «My Direction». He has also served the music of Egon [jazz/soul], Maarten Decombel Trio [folk], DooDooDown [rhythm&blues mixed with improvisation], Roselien Tobbackx [pop]. Since 2009, he accompanies the contemporary dance classes of Humanités-Danse of Louvain-La-Neuve by being an orchestra by himself: drums, keyboard and vocals.





# DISCOGRAPHY



## ● Gratitude III - 20th April 2018

«**Gratitude III**» is a self-produced album and stands for a great evolution in the band's aesthetics. With self-production, the musicians experiment a great freedom in creation and fully express their sensitivity and groove, so special to Gratitude Trio. The musicians take an other path, integrating electronic sounds, with Jeroen Van Herzeele's EWI and modular synth. The album's inspiration mixes rhythms out of the ordinary such as drum'n'bass, electro pop and ambient music.

Listen to the album:

<https://gratitudetrio.bandcamp.com/album/gratitude-iii>



## ● AJMiLIVE - 3rd November 2017 [AJMiLIVE #16]

Recorded in March 2016, this album is the live concert that took place in the mythical venue in Avignon: the AJMI, and is therefore released on his label. Created in 2014, this label has the particularity to be dedicated to live, and to be 100% digital.

Listen to the album:

<https://www.jazzalajmi.com/label/ajmi-live/ajmile-16/>



## ● alive - 23rd May 2016 [el NEGOCITO Records]

Their second album «**alive**» is a live recording of new songs alternating between different dynamics and moods; sometimes intense and energetic with grooves and polyrhythms, sometimes more fragile and lyrical, like a ballad full of feelings and emotions. The music gives an energy of letting go, not conceptual or rigid, with a touch of Led Zeppelin. And of course the spirit of Coltrane is never far away.

Listen to the album:

<https://elnegocito.bandcamp.com/album/alive>



## ● Gratitude Trio - 2012 [el NEGOCITO Records]

First eponym album of the power trio, recorded in August 2012, it is a true anthem to John Coltrane spirit, with a touch of Eastern flavours and intense interpretations. The 3 friends, Jeroen Van Herzeele, Louis Favre et Alfred Vilyleck, successively change to groovy tracks, generous ballads and furious contemporary contemplations. An explosive ending, both spiritual and warm.

Listen to the album:

<https://elnegocito.bandcamp.com/album/gratitude-trio>

## PRODUCTION & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

CHRISTINE DUMONS

admin@collectifkoa.com / +33 (0)6 18 64 64 38

## ARTISTIC

ALFRED VILAYLECK

vsomsy@gmail.com / +33 (0)6 88 15 14 86

## COMMUNICATION

PÉNÉLOPE REYNÈS

communication@collectifkoa.com / +33 (0)6 58 30 78 54

## BOOKING

LOUIS FAVRE - artistic & booking [Belgium]

louisfavre@gmail.com / +32 486 759 954

diffusion@collectifkoa.com

COLLECTIF  
KOA

JAZZ & MUSIQUES IMPROVISÉES

La Tendresse  
80, impasse Flouch  
34070 Montpellier - France

contact@collectifkoa.com  
[www.collectifkoa.com](http://www.collectifkoa.com)

Pictures: Maël G. Lagadec

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