



COLLECTIF KOA PRESENTS

GRATITUDE TRIO

PRESENTATION

Known in Brussels as THE band that lets its guts out on stage, Gratitude Trio has been creating organic music in which extremes love each other for 10 years.



Jeroen Van Herzele, saxophonist in Belgium, develops a lively and fluid style, alternating boiling coltranian incantations and a delicate lyricism.

Louis Favre, a French drummer/vocalist who has been living in Brussels for 20 years, sets up organic grooves, lets explosive polyrhythms flow and softens the whole thing with his Jeff Buckley-like voice, while **Alfred Vilayleck**, a bassist based in Montpellier and founder of the Collectif Koa, stabilizes the band with his solid lines and hypnotizing sound.

In 2012, they released their 1st album under El Negocito Records, and the trance engraved on the track Gratitude determined their musical aesthetic.

In 2015, Gratitude Trio recorded a second live album «Alive» on El Negocito Records label in order to share their stage experience on record.

In 2018, the group self-produces the record «Gratitude III» in which they take a new aesthetic direction by including electronic sounds, vocals, and an approach of new musical styles such as drum'n'bass or electro-pop.

Their 4th album is in preparation and will be released in early 2022...

Gratitude Trio has performed more than 200 times in Belgium in many festivals such as Jazz à Liège, Jazz Middelheim (Antwerp) Jazz In het Park, Ham Session (Ghent), Brussels Jazz Marathon, Confluent Jazz Festival (Namur), Jazz Zottegem (...), as well as jazz scenes such as Jazz Station, Roskam, Sounds Jazz Club (Brussels), Handelsbeurs, Hot Club (Ghent), An Vert, Jacques Pelzer Jazz Club (Liège), Stuk (Leuven), De Werf (Bruges) (...)

The group has also performed abroad: Jazzdor (Strasbourg), AJMI (Avignon), Jazzebre (Perpignan), Koa Jazz Festival (Montpellier) in France, Porgy and Bess (Austria), in Jordan and in Berlin for the Belgian embassies.

Gratitude Trio was the winner of a Lundis d'Hortense tour in 2018 on the occasion of the release of their 3rd record.

The group's strategy also involves a network of partners: the Mercury cooperative which administers the group, the Collectif Koa which ensures promotion in France, and currently the label De Werf which co-produces, ensures promotion and distribution of the new record.



GRATITUDE TRIO ACHIEVEMENTS

«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

After 11 years of existence, Gratitude Trio releases its 4th album under the famous Belgian label W.E.R.F. RECORDS in partnership with the Collectif Koa, based in Montpellier, France.

Jeroen, Alfred and Louis worked for more than a year on this album, continuing to develop the musical framework of the previous album, a mix of sensitivity and groove, contemplative vocals and raging solos, a happy mix of acoustic and electronic sounds...

The compositions of Achievements reflect the realities that inhabit them: to be touched by the beauty and the dark sides of life, to be amazed by nature, to accept what we cannot change, to create links, to commit ourselves to realize ourselves.

Music that is both sophisticated and organic, always with the energy and sense of risk that characterizes them.

Jeroen VAN HERZEELE : tenor sax, EWI, modular synth

Alfred VILAYLECK : electric bass

Louis FAVRE : drums, percussions, vocals

Production : Gratitude Trio & W.E.R.F. Records.

Recording, mixing & mastering : Michel Andina @ Studio Red House, Brussels, June 2021

PRESS REVIEW

JEAN-CLAUDE VANTROYEN - LE SOIR - JUNE 2018

« On a background of sexy bass lines and dancing percussion, with its atmospheric layers due to EWI and vocals, the music develops, adventurous, with its Coltranian memories, its power, its madness, its groove, but also its reverie and its space-psychedelic trips. »

RADIO PANIK – NOVEMBER 2018

« Gratitude Trio is a group known for its strength and its sensitivity that opens people's hearts. 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 three albums (...) have been very well received by the press and the enthusiastic public coming to each of their concerts. »



● 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 in 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 the language of jazz, looking for an initiatory experience in confrontation with the changes of a constantly changing mode. 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]

Alfred began his interest in music through rock, then quickly turned to jazz and improvisation. Graduated from the conservatories of Perpignan and Strasbourg, he is a founding member of the Collectif Koa in Montpellier, with whom he has participated in numerous musical adventures, and which has allowed him to develop his artistic universe in contact with Steve Coleman, Aka Moon, Magic Malik, Jim Black and Ari Hoenig. Alfred is a bassist, composer and improviser, steeped in the cultures of jazz, rock, and world music, which has led him to share his musical language with artists from Europe, Asia, Africa and the United States. He directs and composes for the Grand Ensemble Koa, a contemporary jazz-rock ensemble, and, convinced of the artistic strength of the collective, he co-directs Peemäi - a quartet fusing contemporary jazz and Asian music -, Gratitude Trio - a Franco-Brussels free jazz trio -, as well as, more recently, the young audience project Nefertiti. He has also been teaching jazz and contemporary music at the Montpellier Conservatory for over ten years, and practices the language of soundpainting with which he creates many ephemeral projects. Committed artist, he is a member of the board of the national federation Grands Formats and actively participates in the regional network Occijazz. Concerned about promoting jazz and improvised music, he is also the programmer of the Koa Jazz Festival in Montpellier.



● 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 is a certified teacher.

Prior to his studies he studied with Serge Lazarevitch 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 a year and together they composed the hits «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 the Humanités-Danse of Louvain-La-Neuve by being an orchestra by himself: drums, keyboard and vocals.



● « **Gratitude III** » - April 20, 2018

Gratitude III was born from two common desires:

- > to compose music together in order to get out of the paths we have already travelled
- > to play a contemporary music, exploring electronic sounds, singing, ambient, drum'n'bass while keeping our sensitivity.

The musicians made the choice of an entirely self-produced album in order to experiment a greater freedom of creation and work.



● « **Ajmi Live** » - November 2017 [Ajmi Live]

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.

Discover the album :

<http://www.jazzalajmi.com/label/ajmi-live/ajmilive-16/>



● « **ALIVE** » - 2015 [El Negocito]

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, at the heart of the trio, 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.



● « **Gratitude Trio** » - 2012 [El Negocito]

This album consists of compositions by Jeroen Van Herzelee, Louis Favre and Alfred Vilayleck as well as improvisations.

The group performs in small and large venues, at home, while working with new material, always evolving, searching, gaining in maturity and complicity with each concert.



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