



## Naratès

In an intimate duo setting, piano and guitar create a musical dialogue, at times softly, sometimes stormy, but always focused on the exchange between the musicians, both during improvisation and composition.

It is with this focus that the suite “*Seven Pictures (of moment of no importance)*” is composed. This musical fresco develops images from a man's life, selecting ephemeral and volatile impressions of his existence. The music moves from one picture to the next, expressing itself in different musical languages (such as jazz, pop, impressionist- or folk music), in order to capture the feeling suggested by each of the pictures.

The suite represents a delicate balance between the composed and improvised musical parts. It represents the duo's first opus.

[This link](#) shows a recording of the duet's music produced at Hindemith's foundation in 2022.



## Merlin Breij – Guitar et composition

Merlin Breij is a Dutch-Swiss composer and guitarist based in Lausanne. As an eclectic composer, his works range from large-scale works, such as the 5-movements suite for jazz ensemble "*Hommage à Emmanuel Carnevali*"; the 4-movements "*Impulsions*", to chamber jazz works such as the suite for 2 clarinets and guitar "*Exode*"; or the creation of a contemporary piece for cello, guitar and drum named "*Piazza Virgiliana*". These compositions underline the fascination that the notions of form exert on the perception of the listener; the fusion of harmonic languages collected in different approaches of writing; while keeping in the foreground the notion of lyrical melody that the composer defends in each aesthetic direction that he includes in his language.

Guitarist specialized in "chamber" jazz formations, Merlin Breij plays willingly in duo, as with the group "*Naratès*" (piano and guitar), or in trio : "*Merlin et les Maîtres de l'Air*" (2 bass clarinets and guitar); however without excluding classical combos, as his work with "*Cerulean Poppy*" has shown. His skills as a "section" guitarist and as an interpreter of written music have also earned him a place in larger ensembles, such as "*Tribute to Maria Schneider*" produced by the HEMU in 2019, or the "*SYJO*", where he recorded with a Big Band featuring Peter Erskin, Christian Jacob, and Tim Ries, among others.

His musical studies took place at the HEMU (*Haute École de Musique de Lausanne*) and before that at the EJMA - *École de Jazz et de Musique Actuelle*, with teachers such as Sylvain Luc, Emil Spanyi, Vinz Vonlanthen, William Blank, Jeff Baud and Julien Feltn, obtaining his Bachelor's degree in 2019 with the highest honors at his graduation concert, and his Master's degree in pedagogy in 2021, which was awarded with the J. de Crousaz prize.

His creative work is supported by various grants and prizes, including a grant from the Friedl-Wald Foundation in 2020





## Didier Todesco - Piano

Didier Todesco has been a musician from a very early age. Raised in a family of pianists, his instrument has accompanied him throughout his life. He obtained his B.A. degree (piano), as well as his M.A. (pedagogy) at the Lausanne HEMU (*Haute École de Musique*). He shares his passion for his instrument both as a concert performer as well as a teacher.

His artistic personality has been shaped by his encounters with a wide range of music professionals during his studies, and also by the wide range of musical repertoires that have his interest. This results in different playing ways with multiple influences.

The pianists Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans and Red Garland are the center of these influences, but his playing also reflects his rich past as a classical musician. He is particularly interested in the sound and the touch of this music which he owes to his more than twenty years of training and practice in classical piano. In addition, his influences are also drawn from the freshness of Latin music, which he is particularly fond of, as well as the groove-oriented playing he has acquired during many Soul music concerts he has performed.





## Previous concerts :

- Novio - Opening Night
- Hôtel Victoria of les Diablerets : Leenaards foundation's symposium
- Olympic Museum - Leenaards foundation's symposium
- BCV Concert Hall
- Ming Shan Center - Leenaards foundation's symposium
- Private event - Phillip Morris
- Olympic Museum - Private event

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