

The Ploctones

Anton Goudsmit – guitar

Efraïm Trujillo – saxophones & flute

Jeroen Vierdag – electric & acoustic bass

Martijn Vink – drums

The Ploctones represent everything that jazz is about. They express a feeling of liberation, that can only exist in your wildest fantasies. Their music swings, howls, vibrates, bangs and whacks like nothing else. And if you would describe improvisation as ‘a question of catching what goes around’, then the Ploctones prove that they have perfectly tuned antenna for this. Half a note is enough to create a musical universe. But there is not only jazz in this universe.

If you try to put a label on the Ploctones, they will deliberately break the barriers. So what is it that the Ploctones blow through their microphones? Jazz rock, blues or funk? It is all of that. Latin, kaseko, punk, pop, r&b, country, bluegrass? All styles are in there. Goudsmit, Trujillo, Vierdag & Vink devour every great musical idea with pleasant greed and their joy is utterly contagious. Shall we put another log on the fire? Let’s just do it!

The Ploctones are a highly physical band, straight ahead with a wind force scale 10. Efraïm Trujillo blows the bottom out of his tenor saxophone, Anton Goudsmit is producing electric shocks from his guitar, Jeroen Vierdag dances over his bass strings and Martijn Vink steadily makes the impossible possible on his drums. All four musicians have unique stories to tell on their instruments. They give and take the space to explore and express those stories, but the group sound always has priority over their personal ego.

This is not a band in which a proper rhythm section indicates the time and the soloists take turns in doing their thing. The role-playing is constantly shifting. You can hear the most subtle melodies on bass or drums, carrying you away, and incredibly catchy rhythms from guitar and saxophone. As unambiguous as their song titles are (translated to English that is Ass, Shut Up, Fear of Poles and The Thirst), as ingenious is their music, ranging from a ticking time bomb, ready to explode, to the finest clockwork mechanism.

It was the year 2004 and suddenly they were there, the Ploctones (at that time called Goudsmit, Trujillo, Vierdag & Vink). Everyone knew Anton Goudsmit as the secret weapon of the New Cool Collective but nobody ever experienced him in the role of a band leader. But is he really a band leader? He firmly keeps a distance from this position. At the most he is the face of an anarchistic gang, serving only the law of the right note at the right time. In any case, the Ploctones did an amazing concert at the Live op het Dak Festival in Amsterdam. People that attended the show were still trembling with energy for days after the event. The concert was released on CD and the group went on the road worldwide.

In 2009 their first studio album, 050, came out. The quartet takes the listener on an adventurous, almost hallucinating trip along dazzling abysses and elusive heights. The ballad Ernesto is as touching, romantic and beautiful as Paalangst is vile, mean

and treacherous. The album received an overwhelming amount of positive reviews in the media. And on top of that, Anton Goudsmit was awarded the prestigious Dutch jazz award, the VPRO/Boy Edgar Prize, which all resulted in a solid position for the band on the Dutch stages.

In 2011 their latest album 3...2...1... was released and it was immediately nominated for the Edison Jazz National (the Dutch Grammy). The opening track Kont (translated: Ass) blows you away, but with Kalm (translated: Calm) the gentlemen show their sensitive side as well. Again the band did an extended tour and rolled over the low lands like a fireball

2013 marks the release of the 4th album of the Ploctones 'Ploc'.

As "a mob wild sled dogs", the group is ready to present new work, or as Goudsmit put it: 'new hip breakers'. A tour in The Netherlands and abroad is currently booked.

(Text: Maartje den Breejen)

Brief biographies

Anton Goudsmit is truly one of the most distinctive Dutch guitar players around. Mention his name and positive adjectives follow with regard to his music, his sound, his performance and his personality. In 1994 he was among the first members of the New Cool Collective. Later on he also performed with Dutch colleagues Eric Vloeimans, Han Bennink, Ernst Reijseger and international greats such as Tony Allen and John Zorn. He was nominated twice for the Paul Acket Award at the North Sea Jazz Festival. In 2010 he received the most prestigious jazz prize in The Netherlands, the VPRO Boy Edgar Prijs. Goudsmit has written the majority of compositions for The Ploctones.

Jeroen Vierdag is a versatile and creative acoustic and electric bass player. Seemingly cool and calm, he 'grooves' like hell and provokes his colleagues on stage. Vierdag performs in different groups, such as Amina Figarova Group and Nueva Manteca. He moves easily in different genres from rock, jazz, Latin and Brazilian.

Martijn Vink is 'Holland's best jazz drummer', according to The Guardian. From a young age Vink has built experience with big bands and orchestras. Nowadays he plays in various jazz and rock groups, a/o the Metropole Orchestra, performing with internationally renowned guest soloists such as Pat Metheny, Herbie Hancock, John Scofield and Hank Jones.

Efraim Trujillo is a well appreciated tenor- en soprano saxophone player, as well as a flute player. He master his instruments so well that he always surprises his audiences as well as the band members on stage! So no surprise that he has performed with a/o Gregory Porter, Benny Bailey, Marcus Miller Toumani Diabate and Bootsie Collins. Trujillo is also member of Fra Fra Sound and New Cool Collective Big Band.

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