

ASAF SIRKIS TRIO

Modern Fusion Jazz

EPK



featuring:

Asaf Sirkis (ISR/UK) - drums
Tassos Spiliotopoulos (GR/SWE) - guitar
Kevin Glasgow- (UK) - electric bass

In 2007 the **Asaf Sirkis Trio** was formed, featuring Greek guitarist **Tassos Spiliotopoulos** and Scottish bassist **Kevin Glasgow**.

Asaf explains the concept of the trio in an interview for Jazz UK magazine: *'I wanted to create a sound where electric guitar and electric bass sound like a single instrument. All the music I wrote for this band came from this approach'*.

'I've always been drawn to the trio format. Music for me is about teamwork and communication and there's something about trios that really delivers this and

everybody in the band can really express themselves' The 2010 album **'Letting Go'** was created with the idea of simple and effective melodies, a clearer idea of the band's sound, and with the individual characteristics of the band members in mind. The album received rave reviews and the band toured UK and Europe extensively, developing their individual voice and sound.

Asaf explains in an interview for Jazz Podium (German Jazz Magazine): *'Letting Go' represents for me the process of spiritually becoming aware of who I really am and of letting go of beliefs and thought patterns I've picked up along the way that do not*

belong to me. I called it that way because I felt the beginning of this process together with having the first inspiration to make this album'. **'The Monk'**, released in 2008 was created with the vision of a new sound. The band begun rehearsing and playing local gigs around 2007 and after a year of intense work the project was finally recorded.

The name **'The Monk'** refers to the work of a musician; Asaf explains in an interview to **Jazzwise**: *'I find a lot of similarity between the way a monk lives and the Jazz musician. Not that I'm a monk! But for me monk symbolizes great devotion to something that's not material'*.

Asaf Sirkis

drums, composition

Born in Israel, 1969, Asaf started his professional career as a musician in the early 90's playing with many different Jazz-Rock, Kleizmer, world music, and Free Jazz bands in Israel. During that time he co-operated with Israel's local Jazz/world luminaries such as Harold Rubin, Albert Beger, Yair Dlal and Eyal Sela. Many of those early projects were recorded and released by a pioneer Jazz record label in Israel called Jazzis (founded by Adam Baruch). Around those years Asaf started to write music but it wasn't until 1995 when he formed his first trio that he found an outlet for his writing. In 1998 Asaf left Israel and settled in London. He soon became part of the UK Jazz and world music scene, and started working with artists such as Adel Salameh, a Palestinian oud player/composer and reeds player Gilad Atzmon with whom he formed the 'Orent House Ensemble'. In 1999 Asaf formed his band 'Inner Noise' with Steve Lodder (Church Org.) and Mike Outram (Guit). In 2003 Asaf recorded the 'Inner Noise' first album ('Inner Noise'). 'Inner Noise' is widely considered a groundbreaking album and the music has been described as a new gender - 'Gothic Jazz'. The CD was chosen as one of the best albums of 2005 at the CHUOFM89 radio jazz station in Canada. In 2006 Asaf started a unique collaboration with highly acclaimed saxophonist/composer Tim Garland and Pianist Gwilym Simcock known as the 'Lighthouse trio' (ACT). This band has toured world-wide and recorded 3 albums so far. With his Inner Noise band Asaf made two more albums, 'We Are Falling' (Konnex 2005) and 'The Song Within' (SAM Productions/Egea 2007) which was selected as one of the best albums of 2007 at the 'All About Jazz' web-site by John Kelman. While developing his own compositions, Asaf formed the Asaf Sirkis Trio in 2007 which features

“Since arriving in London from Israel at the end of the '90s, Asaf Sirkis has earned a reputation as one of the world's premier drummers”

Ian Patterson, All About Jazz

“Asaf Sirkis sounding creatively freer and more dramatically inventive than ever on drums”

John Fordham, The Guardian

Greek guitarist Tassos Spiliotopoulos and Israeli bassist Yaron Stavi. This trio released their first album 'The Monk' in September, 2008 (SAM Productions/Egea) and is currently preparing a new release - 'Letting Go' - in September 2010. Asaf is also working with the Larry Coryell's 'Power Trio' (featuring Larry Coryell on Guitar and Jeff Berlin on Bass), Nicolas Meier Group (guitarist off Jeff Beck's band), a group that combines Jazz with Middle Eastern music, with John Law's Art Of Sound Trio as well as working with other artists such as: Chick Corea, Jeff Berlin, John Abercrombie, Soft Machine, Bob Sheppard, Norman Watt-Roy (off the Blockheads), Wilko Johnson, Mark Egan, Dave Liebman, David Binney, Gary Husband, John Taylor, Norma Winstone, Kenny Wheeler, Gwilym Simcock, Andy Sheppard, Soft Machine, Peter King, John Etheridge and more.



Tassos Spiliotopoulos

guitar

Originally from Athens Greece, Tassos Spiliotopoulos lived in London for over 12 years and now shares his time between Stockholm, London and Athens. While in London Tassos quickly became a part of the UK Jazz scene and worked with many of the country's top musicians. He also studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Mmus) and Trinity College of Music (Bmus, Hons).

During the past few years Tassos has been touring with his own band as well as numerous other creative projects, performing in clubs and festivals in over 15 countries in Europe, America and Asia. He has worked with artists such as Kenny Wheeler, Gary Husband, Asaf Sirkis, Dimitri Vassilakis, John Parricelli, Mike Outram, John Etheridge, and more. In 2005, Tassos formed his own quartet with three of the most talented musicians he has been playing with, Asaf Sirkis, Robin Fincker and Yaron Stavi. The idea was to create a fresh sounding, contemporary group that combines lyrical, extended-form compositions with high energy improvising.

The Quartet's first album 'Wait For Dusk' was released by Konnex Records in 2006. Tassos is currently leading a new trio with Asaf Sirkis and Yaron Stavi and in 2010 released the new album 'Archipelagos' on F-I-RE records. The album also features special guests Kenny Wheeler and John Parricelli.

Parallel to his career as a performing musician Tassos has also been active as a composer and has produced numerous titles for film, TV, games and web.

„The remarkable guitarist Tassos Spiliotopoulos has managed to become one of the most promising of the new European jazz scene.“

Sergio Piccirilli, El Intruso Website



Kevin Glasgow

electric bass

Was born in Inverness in 1983 to musical parents Dick and Sabine. When he was 9 years old the family moved to Northern Ireland, where he started learning guitar and playing traditional Irish music sessions with his parents.

At the age of 16 Kevin began playing bass guitar and later moved back to Scotland to study Popular Music at Napier University in Edinburgh. Whilst there he played regularly on the Edinburgh jazz circuit. Since graduating, he has played internationally at venues such as Ronnie Scott's, the 606, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola (Lincoln Center NYC) and festivals such as Glastonbury, Xerox Rochester International, Edmonton International Jazz Festival Jazz Festival, Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival, the Isle of White Jazz Festival, the Glasgow International Jazz & Blues Festival, and the London Jazz Festival.

He has performed with Tommy Smith, Tony Monaco, Clark Tracey, Joe Locke, Asaf Sirkis, Gareth Lockrane, and the Scottish National Jazz

Orchestra (featuring soloists such as John Scofield, Bill Evans, Randy Brecker, Peter Erskine and Julian Joseph). Kevin has also performed on BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Radio 3.

In 2008 Kevin moved to London where he now resides. He currently plays bass and guitar in a number of projects, including Tommy Smith's 'Karma', the Seb Pipe's Life Experience, the Nicolas Meier Trio, and the Asaf Sirkis trio.



Selected Press Quotes

"Since arriving in London from Israel at the end of the end of the '90s, Asaf Sirkis has earned a reputation as one of the world's premier drummers"
Ian Patterson, All About Jazz

"Israeli-born drummer and London resident Asaf Sirkis unleashes with thunderous abandon on this hard-hitting fusion offering that harkens back to a time before the genre became codified, diluted and reduced to a critical joke".

Bill Milkowski, Jazz Times (USA)

'The more subtle virtuosity of a Bill Stewart or a Jack DeJohnette is rooted in the subsoil of the music from which it came: it's something other than athletics. In that context, some really interesting young players to watch are Mark Guiliana from Avishai Cohen's group in the USA, and Martin France and Asaf Sirkis in the UK.'

Bill Bruford in Bill Bruford: The Autobiography, Jawbone Press

"...Sirkis simply the most sensitive of percussionists"
Chris Parker

"Asaf Sirkis sounding creatively freer and more dramatically inventive than ever on drums".
John Fordham, The Guardian

"Sirkis is not only an inventive drummer but also a composer of rigour, wit and surprising delicacy"
Chris Ingham, Mojo Magazine

"Letting Go goes back to instrumental jazz-rock before it ironed out the creases and became an f-word". Sirkis' magnificent presence is always tempered by an acute sensitivity to group principles".
Selwyn Harris, Jazzwise

"Sirkis continues to grow as a composer and leader, balancing subtly alluring introspection with dramatic release. This record will add to his reputation as an original and captivating voice".
Ian Patterson, All about Jazz

"Sirkis is just a joy throughout, whether surging at speed or adding delicate cymbal accents amid the brush strokes. Like all the best drummers and especially those who lead bands, he manages to enhance the playing of his band members while always determining the overall sound and character of the music through his distinctive rhythmic feel and strong musical character".
Peter Bacon, Jazz Breakfast

"Sirkis himself drums with a good mix of power, intelligence and sensitivity and the album represents his strongest set of compositions to date".
Ian Mann, Jazz Mann

Asaf Sirkis, the world class drum phenomenon reminiscent of Jack DeJohnette and Tony Williams at the height of their powers that's taken the British scene by storm over the last few years"...
Rainlore's World of Music

Articles:

The trio's latest album Shepherd's Stories has been selected by both John Kelman and Ian Patterson to be one of the best albums of 2013 at the All About Jazz website!!

[*See John Kelman's selections](#)

[*See Ian Patterson's Selections](#)

CD Reviews:

[*John Kelman's Review - All About Jazz Website](#)

[*Ejazznews, John Stevenson](#)

[*AP Reviews, by Adrian Pallant](#)

[*Abstract Logix Review](#)

[*Adam Baruch's Review](#)

[*Mary James' Review](#)

[*Listomania, Charley Dunlop](#)

[*Jazz Mann Review, Ian Mann](#)

[*All About Jazz, Ian Patterson](#)

[*Jazz Breakfast, Peter Bacon](#)

[*Jazz Journal, David West](#)

[London Jazz News, Chris Parker](#)

[*Mike Dolbear Website](#)

[*Rainlore's World special feature, Richard Sharma](#)

[*Walter Kolosky Review](#)

Broadcasts/Interviews:

[*BBC Radio Three - Live broadcast and interview with Claire Martin](#)

[*Rainlore's World Interview](#)

[*Radio Cardiff, the trio interviewed by Rhys Philips](#)

Live reviews:

[*Rainlore's World gig review \(CDlaunch gig at the Pizza Express Jazz Club, Soho, London\)](#)

[Tangente jazz club, Liechtenstein \(2013\)](#)

Reviews/Interviews in other languages:

[*Jazz Quad, Leonid Askern \(Russian\)](#)

[*El Intruso, Sergio Picirilli \(Spanish\)](#)

[*Drums & Percussion Magazine \(German\)](#)

[*Turkish Jazz Magazine \(interview\)](#)

[*Jazz Podium Interview](#)

[*Jazz Press Magazine \(Polish\), page 25](#)

[*Schlagwerk, Dick De Waal \(Holand\)](#)

[*Sticks Magazine \(German\)](#)

[*Alondon Inteviuw \(Hebrew\)](#)

[*Jazz Conversation, Fabio Ciminiera \(Italian\)](#)

[Liechtenstien Live gig review \(2012\)](#)