

JUSSI REIJONEN *un*

BIOGRAPHY



Born in Rovaniemi, a small town on the Arctic Circle in northern Finland, fretted/fretless guitarist and oudist **JUSSI REIJONEN** is truly the product of a world with few frontiers. Having grown up moving back and forth between Finnish Lapland, the Middle East, and East Africa, and currently living in Boston MA, USA, Jussi has spent his life soaking up the sounds, scents and shades of Nordic, Middle Eastern, African, and now American culture, which are all reflected in his music.

Along his path, Jussi has worked as bandleader, sideman, composer or arranger with numerous front row artists both in and outside his native Finland, and has performed extensively in Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Germany, France, Lebanon and the United States. After relocating to the US in 2008, he has had the honor of performing with the likes of renowned jazz drummer **Jack deJohnette**, flamenco *cantaor* legend **Pepe de**

Lucia, Spanish multi-Grammy-award-winning producer and flamenco guitarist **Javier Limón**, Palestinian oud/violin master **Simon Shaheen**, fretless guitar pioneer **David Fiuczynski**, Turkey's gypsy clarinet legend **Hüsnü Senlendirici**, and Lebanese nay virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist **Bassam Saba**, to name a few.

Tracing the various branches of his roots, Jussi has been chasing his muse and has started to become profiled more and more as a genuine modern *world* musician. With his own quintet, **JUSSI REIJONEN: un**, as his main forum for exploring his own voice as composer, arranger and instrumentalist, he has been working to combine his myriad influences into his own unique musical handwriting. Bringing together five seasoned musicians from Finland, Turkey, Sweden, Palestine and Spain

Utar Artun on piano, **Bruno Råberg** on acoustic bass, and **Tareq Rantisi** and **Sergio Martinez** on percussion the group traverses the boundaries between musical cultures, paying tribute to the traditions of American and Scandinavian jazz and the folk musics of the Middle East and Africa in its search for new sounds and textures. Reijonen's original music draws from a wide pool of influences and experiences gathered growing up on four different continents; in both his original compositions and his playing, the open spaces and silences of Scandinavia effortlessly rub shoulders with the *maqamat* of the Arab world and the rhythmic richness of India and West Africa, creating a truly enchanting musical mosaic.



Jussi Reijonen's debut album *un* is slated to be released in early 2013 (*Finland release: 25 Jan 2013; US release: 26 Feb 2013*).

WWW.JUSSI REIJONEN.COM

INFORMATION

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BOOKINGS

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ELECTRONIC PRESSKIT

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JUSSI REIJONEN

un

RESUME

INSTRUMENTS

Electric and acoustic guitars (fretted and fretless)
Oud (11-string fretless Arabic lute)

CURRENT PROJECTS

Jussi Reijonen: un
Gabriela Martina
The New York Arabic Orchestra
Christiane Karam & ZILZALA
Bruno Råberg & GARUDA

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Performed in USA, Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Germany, France and Lebanon.

Artists: Jack deJohnette, Pepe de Lucia, David Fiuczynski, Javier Limón, Christiane Karam, Marcel Khalifé, Bruno Råberg, Bassam Saba, Hüsnü Senlendirici and Simon Shaheen, among others.

Venues: Lincoln Center, New York NY, USA; Schomburg Center (via Carnegie Hall), New York NY, USA; Berklee Performance Center, Boston MA, USA; La Route du Rock, Saint-Malo, France; Icehall, Helsinki, Finland, among others.

EDUCATION

M.M. '13 (exp. grad.), Contemporary Improvisation, New England Conservatory
B.M. '11, Performance, Berklee College of Music
Musician '06, Helsinki Pop & Jazz Conservatory

STUDIED WITH

Ran Blake, Simon Shaheen, Mick Goodrick, David Tronzo, Jon Damian, David Fiuczynski, David Gilmore, Bret Willmott, Tim Miller, Peter Lerche, Raoul Björkenheim, Bassam Saba and Ziyad Sahhab, among others.



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