

MICHAŁ WIERBA

*All
Stars*



WAYNE ESCOFFERY
SAXOPHONE

RONNIE BURRAGE
DRUMS



NIMROD SPEAKS
BASS GUITAR

MICHAŁ *All Stars* WIERBA

*After several years of cooperation with the well-known American drummer **Ronnie Burrage** and the album "Dance of The Great Spirit" jointly released in the United States, Michał Wierba invites to cooperation another star of the jazz world - the outstanding saxophonist **Wayne Escoffery**, the winner of the Grammy Award, a brilliant sideman of the biggest jazz stars. Michał Wierba All Stars - with a strong cast of world-class musicians - is another step on the Polish pianist's path in the world of jazz, which breaks borders, connecting continents and cultures.*

Based on their own experiences, origins and inspirations, the artists create the extreme sound world of modern jazz, infusing with depth, energy and joy, in which the tradition of European jazz music, represented by Michał Wierba, is combined with the American sound of the invited guests. The strong and masterful sound of Escoffery's saxophone, African rhythms and Burrage's Indian chants are entwined with subtly used electronics and the virtuoso, European pianism of the Polish pianist. After years of experience on the Polish and American scene, Michał Wierba creates his first international band, offering audiences a new quality - true modern jazz fusion of the 21st century.



In 2017, Wierba began working with the legendary American drummer Ronnie Burrage, with whom he toured Poland and the United States four times, performing, among others, at the All Souls Jazz Festival in Chicago, at the famous Smalls Jazz Club in New York and at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston. The fruit of this cooperation and friendship of the musicians is the album Holographic Principle - Dance of the Great Spirit, released in 2019 in the USA by Truth Revolution Records. The album gathered enthusiastic reviews from jazz critics and celebrities, such as **Diane Reeves** or **Kenny Barron**.

This project is a continuation of the international artistic path and the next step in the pursuit of international cooperation with musicians from around the world. The charisma and experience of the performers, reaching to their own roots and the joy of creating music together make Michał Wierba All Stars a project worth the biggest stages and festivals.



MICHAŁ WIERBA



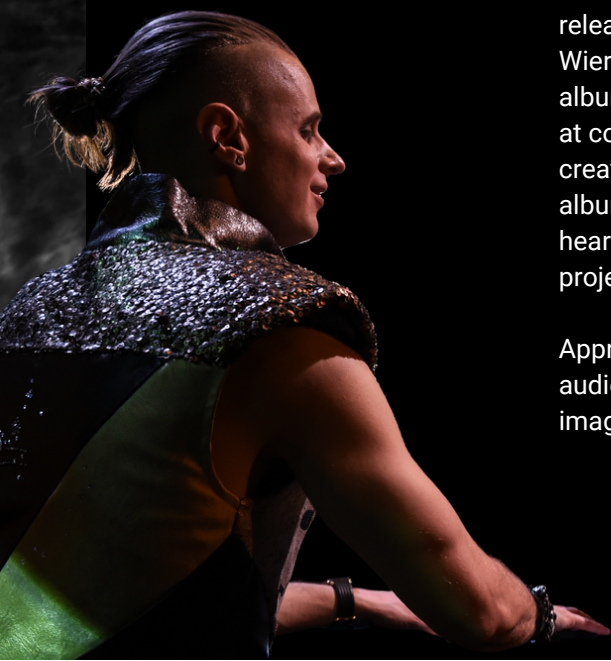
Polish piano virtuoso, composer and producer, doctor of instrumental studies and laureate of over 20 most important Polish and European music festivals. He has performed over 600 concerts and over 20 recorded albums, as well as cooperation with the most important musicians, including: Dante Luciani, Marek Bałata, Marek Piekarczyk, Piotr Baron, Maciej Sikala, Zbigniew Wodecki, Wojciech Myrczek, Karo Glazer, Leopold Kozłowski, Piotr Wojtasik.

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Although Michał Wierba started playing the piano at the age of 17, and no one said he would be successful in his chosen path, after two years of study, the artist began studies at the Academy of Music. Karol Szymanowski in Katowice, to win all significant festivals in Poland and appear on the main stages in Europe. Acting internationally for over 10 years (including Poland, the Netherlands, Scotland, England, USA, Spain, Ukraine), the artist collaborated with leading figures in the world of jazz, world music and popular music. He also permanently cooperates with the Teatr im. Juliusz Słowacki in Krakow and the nationwide multimedia project *Filharmonia Futura*.

The pianist has appeared many times in the pages of the respected Polish and foreign press, radio and television, incl. *Jazz Forum*, *Jazz Press*, *TVP Kultura* or *Glasgow Herald*. Concert in Program III of the Polish Radio, broadcast live from Studio im. Agnieszka Osiecka, was released in 2017 on the album *"Body Language"*, becoming the basis of Wierba's doctoral dissertation at the Academy of Music in Krakow. The album received enthusiastic reviews from critics and is also well received at concerts, where Michał Wierba combines sophisticated pianism with creative play with the audience. *Michał Wierba - Body Language* is a LIVE album released by the Polish label *For Tune Records*, in which you can hear the outstanding Polish saxophonist, Maciej Sikala, invited to the project.

Appreciated for his virtuosity and stage charisma, he easily wins the audience with positive energy, passion for music and characteristic image. He is currently working on the first solo piano album in his career.



WAYNE ESCOFFERY

(saxophone)

"A powerful, passionate player."

Ben Ratliff - The New York Times



"His sound is arguably a contemporary mix of Coltrane, Shorter and Henderson influences, but is already personal. His technique is superb..."

Tony Hall - Jazzwise Magazine

Wayne Escoffery is a world-renowned American tenor saxophonist, acclaimed session musician, winner of the Downbeat Critics 2014 poll and Grammy Award winner, lecturer at the Yale School of Music. Over the years he has recorded and performed internationally with some of the world's greatest jazz stars such as Ron Carter, Ben Riley, Abdulah Ibrahim, Eric Reed, Carl Allen, Al Foster, Billy Hart, Eddie Henderson, Rufus Reid, Wallace Roney and Herbie Hancock to name a few. Since 2006, he has been working with the trumpeter Tom Harrell quintet, with whom he has toured all over the world, he has recorded seven albums as The Tom Harrell Quintet, co-producing four of them: Prana Dance, Roman Nights, The Time of the Sun, and Number Five. Since 2000, he has also been a member of The Mingus Dynasty, Big Band and Orchestra.

Born in London, Escoffery moved to the United States in 1983 and three years later settled in New Haven, where he studied at the Neighborhood Music School, ACES Educational Center for the Arts, and Jazzmobile in New York. Escoffery graduated with honors from his BA in Jazz Performance from Hartt School at Hartford University, where he was a protégé of saxophone legend Jackie McLean. He obtained a master's degree in music from Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at the New England Conservatory, where he studied, inter alia, with George Coleman, Jimmy Heath, Don Braden, Clark Terry, Ron Carter, Barry Harris and Charlie Persip. Since moving to New York City in 1999, Escoffery has performed with some of the world's most elite jazz musicians. He has recorded ten studio albums as a leader and currently leads his own group consisting of pianist David Kikoski, bassist Ugonna Okegwo and drummer Ralph Peterson. Escoffery is also the founder of Black Art Jazz Collective, which performs internationally and has released two albums, the latest of which, The Humble Warrior, was released by Smoke Sessions Records.

In addition to performances, Escoffery is involved in music education and conducts lectures and master classes in the field of jazz music. He currently teaches the saxophone on The New Jersey Performing Arts Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens, and conducts private lessons. In the fall of 2016, Wayne Escoffery was appointed lecturer in jazz improvisation and band coach at the Yale School of Music as part of the Yale University Jazz Initiative.



RONNIE BURRAGE

(drums)



Ronnie Burrage is an American jazz drummer. His style draws elements from hard bop, bebop, funk and soul. Burrage performed with Duke Ellington at the age of nine, playing drums and vibraphone. At the age of 15, he joined the band No Commercial Potential, which supported George Duke's fusion concerts. At 17, he moved to New York, where he played with Sonny Fortune, Lester Bowie, Defunkt, Teruo Nakamura, Sir Roland Hanna, Arthur Blythe, Jackie McLean, Andrew Hill and McCoy Tyner.

The list of artists with whom Burrage has collaborated and recorded includes such names as: Branford Marsalis, Frank "Kuumba" Lacy, Donald Harrison, Terence Conely, Victor Bailey, Gene Jackson, Kevin Eubanks, Woody Shaw, Defunkt, Barbara Dennerlein, Michał Urbaniak, Ray Anderson, Abdullah Ibrahim, Joanne Brackeen, Jack Walrath, Sonny Fortune, Courtney Pine, Joe Zawinul, Archie Shepp, Gary Thomas, Wallace Roney, Kenny Kirkland, Marcus Miller.

Over the years, Burrage also toured with the legendary McCoy Tyner and Wayne Shorter, one of the greatest jazz composers of the late 20th century. From 1994 to 2002, Ronnie Burrage worked as a lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He is known to the Polish audience for his collaboration with jazz double bass player Andrzej Cudzych (Able to Listen) and guitarist Jarek Śmietana, with whom he recorded two albums (Ballads and Other Songs, Starling, 1994; You Never Know, Power Bros., 1997).

Currently, The Artist is a producer and art director at Bluenoise Studio, teaching at Pennsylvania State University.





NIMROD SPEAKS

(bass guitar)

Nirod Speaks is a Philadelphia-based American bassist, composer and teacher at Eastern University in Philadelphia, a session musician. He collaborated with, among others Boostie Barnes, Ronnie Burrage, Doc Gibbs, Hannible Lokumbe have performed in top jazz venues such as Blue Note in New York and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

Jazz graduate from Kutztown University and Rutgers University. He began his education at the age of 16 on electric fender bass in high school under Ricardo Jackson. He was later inducted into the double bass during his first semester of college. He brings his individual touch on the instrument to many musical styles, collaborating with artists from all over the world. He trained his workshop under the supervision of, among others Ben Blazer, Ralph Bowen, Douglas Mapp, Conrad Hewig, Maria Cadieux, Scott Lee, Kevin Kjos, Mike Richmond, Victor Lewis, Vic Juris and Stanley Cowell.



MUSIC

WAYNE ESCOFFERY

Wayne Escoffery / Made in New York Jazz Festival 2017

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_ZNPJWDR2E

MICHAŁ WIERBA & RONNIE BURRAGE

Holographic Principle „Dance of the Great Spirit” (Truth Revolution Records, 2019)

Check it on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/37Hm7LDTCFhcnwisB84t8G?si=wnFibTH8SXOhiLp8jb-AnA>

Check it on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_ICYu-fy6DB8JG4CktaIt6rd5Q73EpgG38

Official Video „Dance of the Great Spirit”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic79B5E-UnQ>

Live Videos - USA Tournee:

Live at Smalls Jazz Club 2019 / New York

https://youtu.be/qBPOZlvCxBA_

Live At Sky Stage 2017 / Frederick Maryland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJa3bvn2V2s>

Michał Wierba at All Souls Jazz 2016 / Chicago - full concert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teCwwSeFD9s>

Live at Side Door Jazz Club 2019 / New York (audio)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9ZtCbyPf7k&feature=youtu.be>



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