

Simon Nabatov

Pianist / Composer

Born in Moscow, 1959

Simon Nabatov's musical education began at the age of 3, his father, himself a musician, being the first teacher. **The Central School of Music and Moscow Conservatory** were the next steps. After the whole family emigrated and settled in New York in 1979, Nabatov continued his studies at the **Juilliard School Of Music**. By that time his interest and involvement in jazz and improvised music grew strong enough to make them his main activity.

Since then he **performed and recorded** with many fine musicians such as Paul Motian, Tony Scott, Sonny Fortune, Kenny Wheeler, Alan Skidmore, Herb Robertson, Louis Sclavis, Charles McPheerson, Billy Hart, David Murray, Paul Horn, Ricki Ford, Marty Ehrlich, Mark Dresser, Jim Snidero, Herb Geller, Dave Pike, Attila Zoller, Matthias Schubert, Barry Altschul, Vladimir Tarasov, John Betsch, Ed Schuller, Arto Tunçboyacı, Adam Nussbaum, Jay Clayton, Ron McClure, Mark Feldman, Drew Gress, Phil Minton, Michael Moore, Han Bennink, Misha Mengelberg, Wolter Wierbos, Hayden Chisholm, Gareth Lubbe and many others.

He enjoyed **continuous work** with Ray Anderson Quartet, Arthur Blythe Quartet, NDR Big Band (Hamburg, Germany), Steve Lacy - Simon Nabatov Duo, Perry Robinson Quartet, Nils Wogram Quartet, Nils Wogram - Simon Nabatov Duo, Matthias Schubert Quartet, Matthias Schubert - Simon Nabatov Duo, Klaus König Orchestra.

His own projects and activities include, since three decades, **hundreds of solo recitals**. In the early 90s Nabatov founded the **trio** with the bassist Mark Helias and the drummer Tom Rainey; the **quartet** "Nature Morte" with the British vocalist Phil Minton, multireed-player Frank Gratkowski and trombonist Nils Wogram (both from Germany); and the **quintet** including his trio plus the violinist Mark Feldman and the trumpet player Herb Robertson. In 2003 another trio was formed, with the cellist Ernst Reijseger and the drummers Michael Vatcher (and later Michael Sarin).

As co-leader Nabatov played and recorded in **duos** with the German tenor sax player Matthias Schubert, American drummer Tom Rainey, Dutch drummer Han Bennink, German trombonist Nils Wogram, Dutch cellist Ernst Reijseger, South-African viola player Gareth Lubbe and with the Dutch pianist Misha Mengelberg, just to mention a few.

In the 1999-2000 season a large-scale radio production project (co - sponsored by WDR and Bayer AG) saw him write and record over 6 hours of music for solo piano, duo (with the American reed player Michael Moore), his trio, the quartet "Nature Morte" and the quintet. Beginning of 2000 the Swiss label HatHut Records brought out the first recording - the trio release "Sneak Preview". The next three recordings, quartet "Nature Morte", quintet "The Master and Margarita" and solo "Perpetuum Immobile" have been released by Leo Records. Two more CD's - "Chat Room" (duo with Han Bennink) and "Autumn Music" (trio with Ernst Reijseger and Michael Vatcher) were brought out by this independent English label.

The next project produced by WDR in 2004 was a 90 - minute piece "A Few Incidents" based on the texts of Russian writer Daniil Charms. **The octet** included Phil Minton, Frank Gratkowski, Nils Wogram, Ernst Reijseger, Cor Fuhler, Matt Penman, Michael Sarin and Simon Nabatov. Leo Records released the recording of this composition in 2005. Together with „Nature Morte“ and „Master and Margarita“ it completed **the „Russian Trilogy“**, 3 musical projects based on the Russian literature.

In 2009 Nabatov, sponsored by the Cologne culture institutions, completed a 5-day **project called „Roundup“** (involving M.Schubert, N.Wogram, E.Reijseger and T.Rainey), resulting in 3 CD's on Leo Records: quintet „Roundup“, trio 1 „Square Down“ and trio 2 „Nawora“.

Starting around 2000, parallel to his jazz activities, Simon Nabatov developed a deep interest for the culture and **music of Brazil**. This led him to study the Portuguese language, travel number of times through the country and learn a great deal about a number of different musical genres.

Some of the more structured activities in that field were a **CD release „Around Brazil“** on the ACT label (2006), and the two-months long **Goethe-Institut „Artist-in-Residence“ in Porto Alegre**, which allowed Nabatov to learn more about the regional „musica gaucha“. Since 2007 he often performed his solo program based on Brazilian music.

In the recent years Nabatov also delved into the field of **electronic music**, learning Max/Msp programming environment; in April 2013 he premiered his new solo program for piano and computer.

Another musical adventure of the recent years was Nabatov's research and development of the solo program dedicated to the **music of the great jazz composer and pianist Herbie Nichols**. Leo Records released a highly acclaimed CD of that program, and the PanRec label brought out a DVD.

Simon Nabatov **performed and recorded** numerous pieces of **chamber music**, some of them written specially for him: "Piano Concerto "Baba" by the American pianist/composer Kenny Werner, "Sonata for violin and piano" by the Irish bassist/composer Ronan Guilfoyle, "Trumpet Sonata", "Cello Sonata", "Trio for flute, cello and piano" by the Swiss reed-player/composer Daniel Schnyder. He also performed and recorded some of the more known "crossover" works, such as "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin (NDR Symphony Orchestra Hannover, 1998) or "Concerto for Jazz Ensemble and Orchestra" by Rolf Liebermann (NDR Symphony Orchestra and Big Band, Hamburg, 1996).

Nabatov was among the **winners** of the 3rd "International Great Jazz Pianist Competition" in Jacksonville, USA (2nd prize) in 1985 and of the "Martial Solal International Jazz Piano Competition" in Paris, France (3rd prize) in 1989. In 1987 he was awarded a **grant** from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Simon Nabatov made numerous **radio productions** for most major European broadcasting companies: WDR, NDR, HR, BR, SFR, Radio France, Radio Zürich, Radio Ireland etc.

He played on countless **international jazz festivals** including Paris, Antibes, Helsinki, Zagreb, Nevers, Berlin, Dublin, Cork, Vilshofen, Bergamo, Groeningen, Vilnius, Karlsbad, Genua, North Sea, Brugge, Voss, Bergen, Riga, Vilnius, Ulrichsberg a.m.o.

Simon Nabatov gave **concerts and workshops** in over 60 countries, he appears on ca. 70 recordings. His own music and projects are documented on over 25 CD's and 3 DVD's (all DVD's on PanRec).

He has taught at the Folkwang Hochschule (Essen), Musichochschule Lucerne and at the International Jazz and Rock Academy (Remscheid).

He is currently a professor of Jazz piano and Ensemble at the Conservatory of Hannover, Germany.

More information and concert dates @ www.nabatov.com

Discography (selected)

„Descriptions“	with M.Schubert	Leo Records	2013
„Special Edition Vol.3“	with P.Heller, I.Heller and A.Nussbaum	Mons Records	2013
„13 Views of Heart's Cargo“	with H.Chisholm, J.Rueckert	MoonTower	2013
„Spinning Songs of Herbie Nichols“	Solo	Leo Records	2012
„Nawora“	with N.Wogram and T.Rainey	Leo Records	2012
„Square Down“	with M.Schubert and E.Reijseger	Leo Records	2011
„Moods and Modes“	with N.Wogram	NWOG Records	2011
„Upcoming Hurricane“	with P.Niggenkemper and G.Cleaver	NoBusiness Rec.	2011
„Roundup“	with M.Schubert, N.Wogram, E.Reijseger and T.Rainey	Leo Records	2010
„Deployment“	with F.Gratkowski and M.Schmickler	Leo Records	2010
„Jazz Limbo“	with N.Wogram	Leo Records	2007
„Portrait of the Band“	with N.Wogram and NDR Big Band	Enja Records	2007
„Celebrations“	with F.Gratkowski, H.Robertson and D.Manderscheid	Leo Records	2007
„Around Brazil“	Solo	ACT Music	2006
„Steady Now“	with T.Rainey	Leo Records	2006
„A Few Incidences“	Octet	Leo Records	2005
„The Move“	with N.Wogram	Between the Lines	2005
„Autumn Music“	with E.Reijseger and M.Vatcher	Leo Records	2004
„Chat Room“	with Han Bennink	Leo Records	2003
„Perpetuum Immobile“	Solo	Leo Records	2003
„Construction Field“	with N.Wogram Quartet	Altrisuoni	2003
„Starting A Story“	with Nils Wogram	ACT Music	2002

„Three Stories, One End“	with D.Gress and T.Rainey	ACT Music	2002
„The Master and Margarita“	with M.Feldman, H.Robertson, M.Helias and T.Rainey	Leo Records	2001
„Odd and Awkward“	with N.Wogram Sextet/Octet	Enja Records	2001
„Nature Morte“	with Ph.Minton, F.Gratkowski, N.Wogram	Leo Records	2001
„Sneak Preview“	with M.Helias and T.Rainey	HatHut Records	2000
„Momentum“	with M.Schubert Quartet	Jazzline Records	2000
„Shall We Dance?“	Solo	2nd Floor Edition	1999
„Speed Life“	with N.Wogram Quartet	Enja Records	1998
„Roundtrip“	with N.Wogram Quartet	Enja Records	1996
„Blue and Grey Suite“	with M.Schubert Quartet	Enja Records	1995
„Tough Customer“	with M.Helias and T.Rainey	Enja Records	1993
„Everyone of us“	with R.Anderson, Ch.Haden, Ed Blackwell	Gramavision	1992
„For Thieves and Lovers“	with M.Schubert Quartet	Network Records	1992
„For All The Marbles“	with M.Helias and B.Altschul	ASP Records	1990
„Inside Looking Out“	with E.Schuller, J.Betsch, A.Tuncboyaci	Tutu Records	1989
„Locomotion“	Solo	ASP Records	1988
„Circle the Line“	with E.Schuller, P.Motian, A.Tuncboyaci	GM Records	1988