







CHARL DU PLESSIS TRIO

As one of the most unique and recognizable musical ensembles in South Africa today, the Charl du Plessis Trio has contributed to resurgence in the popularity of crossover music from Zeerust to Zürich, Stellenbosch to Shanghai. They have won major music awards including a South African Music Award (“SA Grammy”) and Ghoema Award for Best Instrumental Album. This trio frequently performs in Europe and Asia as well as at major music festivals in South Africa. Highlights include Grachtenfestival - the Netherlands, Musikdorf Ernen - Switzerland, and Standard Bank Joy of Jazz - Johannesburg.

Formed in 2006 the scope of the Charl du Plessis Trio’s musical diversity is what makes their endeavors truly unique. Performing in styles ranging from classical, jazz, rock, pop and even salsa, reggae and Latin they have recorded four albums: Trio (2007), Shanghai Brunch (2010), Baroqueswing (2013) and Gershwin Songbook (2015). This musical unit consists of pianist Charl du Plessis, bassist Werner Spies and drummer Hugo Radyn.

Charl du Plessis is a prolific pianist and Steinway Artist with an extensive performing schedule who holds a Doctorate of music from the University of Pretoria under Joseph Stanford. He has performed on 4 continents, and his repertoire ranges from classics with leading symphony orchestras to jazz and pop. He has since appeared on the stage of the Berlin Philharmonie for a performance with Chick Corea in July 2015 and has been the collaborative pianist with South African star singer/songwriter Nataniël since 2000 performing in more than 120 performances per year.

Werner Spies studied jazz at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria and is a free-lance bass player and teacher. He is a successful entrepreneur co-owning the Haloa coffee shop chain in Pretoria, South Africa. He has also toured Europe as bass player with South African singer Jannie du Toit.

Hugo Radyn is a specialist jazz drummer who studied jazz at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria. He is a sought after drum teacher and



HUGO RADYN DRUM



WERNER SPIES BASS

is currently on the staff at Cornwall Hill College. He has made recordings for various projects ranging from CD, DVD and live radio broadcasts.

Highlights from the upcoming concert schedule include a live recording of the Trio's first LIVE DVD in Ernen, Switzerland as well as a return tour to China.

For more information visit www.charlduplessis.com

CHARL DU PLESSIS

Charl du Plessis rose to fame when he was the youngest pianist in Africa to be named a Steinway Artist. He has since embarked on an international career working simultaneously as a classical and jazz pianist and has illuminated the music of Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Gershwin, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Billie Joel for a new generation of listeners.

Since making the decision to establish his own trio with bassist Werner Spies and drummer Hugo Radyn in 1997, Charl du Plessis has alerted audiences to the complexities and capabilities of combining jazz and classic music. The creative possibilities of this musical unit have offered him the means to produce a wide range of music not confined by any style or genre. His specialisation in the arrangement and refined treatment of crossover music sets him apart from other pianists and has enabled him to build a new audience where the classic music connoisseur and jazz enthusiast meet. The confidence which is afforded by performing his own and thoroughly original arrangements, combined with his classical piano expertise allows him to combine the art of improvisation with insightful and interpretative musicianship.

Charl du Plessis has collaborated with many pre-eminent musicians and has performed with South Africa's most prestigious orchestras. International

concert tours to Europe and the Far-East has contributed to the press hailing Du Plessis as a “cult pianist” an “edu-tainer” and a pianist with the “X-factor”. For the past 15 years he has performed in more than 60 concerts per year with singer and iconic South African entertainer Nataniël.

Charl du Plessis lives in Pretoria, South Africa and has spent the first part of his life, dividing his time between family, concert life, and chamber music and, over the last few years, a teaching position at the University of Pretoria. He performs more than 130 concerts per season and pursues a comprehensive approach to the musical profession, organising his own management, recording under his own independent label and studying the art of piano building and the latest sound technology. He has developed a similar approach to recording, a process that he controls at each and every stage. He has released 6 CD and 2 DVD recordings. During his work as classical pianist and the 7-year collaboration with his trio has earned him many awards and prizes. His recordings have featured as no. 1 on classical billboard charts and have been awarded distinguished awards at National Arts Festivals for productions that included his ‘GERSHWIN SONGBOOK’ and ‘Charl du Plessis Trio Plays Bach’.

Charl du Plessis studied with master piano teacher Joseph Stanford at the University of Pretoria and was the first student ever to complete a doctoral performance degree specializing simultaneously in classical and jazz piano. He also studied with well-known musicians, including György Sebök in Ernen, Switzerland, Dan Hearle and Stefan Karlsson at the University of North Texas, USA and Ulrich Koella at the Musikhochschule Winterthur Zurich, Switzerland. He has been the recipient of major prizes at International Scholarship Competitions of the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the South African Music Rights Organization (SAMRO).

*His most recent recording is Gershwin Songbook - available from iTunes.
For more information visit www.charlduplessis.com*

ABOUT THIS RECORDING

Crossover music has (in my opinion) become the step-sister of jazz and world music alike and is met by some listeners with trepidation. After further listening and exposure of live and recorded performance of this unique style of music I have seen its power to convince even the most stern classic music lover to enjoy jazz and equally so convert the jazz buff to respect classical music. I am grateful to have had a long relationship with the beautiful Ernen and the memories of the teaching I experienced there from prof György Sebök. Later the many concerts that followed introduced me to the friendly audiences that this most picturesque of Swiss villages attract. The vision of Francesco Walter to introduce a jazz concert in the Baroque week made it possible to be creative within this structured framework and experiment with form, rhythm and new arrangements of timeless music with my trio as vehicle. For the BaroqueSwing volume 2 album I wanted to adhere to the sophisticated method of musical treatment where the inherent rhythmic identity of the original score, as well as the stylistic performance practice principals receive the utmost respect from us as improvisers and from me as arranger. The result is a refreshing combination of ultimate structure and the unpredictable energy of live improvisation. This experience is defined by the energy of the audience and the moment of musical creation propels Hugo to be the sensitive and complimentary drummer with his unique dynamic timbres and inspire Werner to utilise the acoustics and form the basis of our harmonic landscape. The Steinway becomes my voice as I try to extemporise on the original Baroque content in a new and personal way. As a trio we lock in thought and musical motion to try and contribute to the unique soundscape created in Ernen. It is my wish that the time spent listening to this music will entertain, enrich and extend the musical imagination of each listener, as if they were in the Church on that special day.

Charl du Plessis

Recorded live at Festival Musikdorf Ernen Kirche St. Georg, Ernen, Switzerland, 26 July 2015

PRODUCER, MUSICAL CONCEPT & ARRANGEMENTS

Charl du Plessis

BALANCE ENGINEER, MASTERING, EDITING

Jean Claude Gaberel

PIANO TECHNICIAN

Urs Bachmann

PIANO

Steinway, Model D-274

PHOTOGRAPH

Raphael Hadad

DESIGN

Amethys

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Claves Records, Patrick Peikert

In association with Festival Musikdorf Ernen

Commissioned by Francesco Walter – Director Festival Musikdorf Ernen

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ERNEN***

www.musikdorf.ch

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JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)		
Tocatta & Fugue in D Minor BWV 565		
1	I. Toccata	02:29
2	II. Fugue	04:40
CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK (1714-1787)		
3	Mélodie from Orphée & Eurydice	03:41
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH		
4	Invention 8 in F Major BWV 779	01:00
5	Invention 4 in D Minor BWV 775	09:56
6	Invention 13 in A Minor BWV 784	03:34
CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK		
7	Ballet des ombres heureuses from Orphée & Eurydice	03:57
ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)		
Le quattro stagioni, Concerto No. 1 in E Major RV 269 «La Primavera»		
8	I. Allegro	02:52
9	II. Largo	03:54
10	III. Allegro. Pastorale	04:23
GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)		
Suite in D minor, HWV 437		
11	III. Sarabande. Grave	03:45
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH		
Prelude & Fugue No. 3 in C-Sharp Major BWV 848		
12	I. Prelude	01:38
13	II. Fugue	03:47
New Jazz-Suite		
14	I. Preludium - Cello Suite no. 1 BWV 1007	04:49
15	II. Allemande - French Suite no. 5 BWV 816	01:55
16	III. Aria - Goldberg Variations BWV 988	02:15
17	IV. Sarabande - Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring from Cantata BWV 147	06:04
18	V. Chorale - Ich Rufe zu Dir Herr Jesu Christ BWV 639	02:26
19	VI. Gigue - Partita no. 1 BWV 825	03:15
GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898-1937)		
20	I Got Rhythm	03:02

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