



**Philharmonie
Luxembourg**

Michael Wollny & Friends

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Nils Landgren trombone, vocals

Michael Wollny piano

Lars Danielsson double bass, cello

Wolfgang Haffner drums

Pops

26.10.25

Dimanche / Sonntag / Sunday

19:30 90' without intermission

Grand Auditorium

Nils Landgren trombone, vocals

Born in 1956, Nils Landgren began by playing drums before discovering the trombone at age 13. He studied classical trombone at the music college in Karlstad with David Maytan, and at the University in Arvika with Ingemar Roos. His encounters with Swedish folk-jazz pioneer Bengt-Arne Wallin and trombonist Eje Thelin persuaded him to move to improvisation and to begin the development of his own approach. After his graduation, he toured with Swedish pop star Björn Skifs, and in 1981 Thad Jones invited him to join his new big band project. Ever since, he has been equally involved in most styles: jazz and rock, soul, and hip hop, not to mention hundreds of albums, including by such international stars as ABBA, The Crusaders, Eddie Harris, Bernard «Pretty» Purdie, Wyclef Jean, and Herbie Hancock. He recorded and released his first solo album in 1984 and made another four in Sweden before he was signed by the German label ACT in 1994. Since his first release, «Live in Stockholm», he has recorded 30 albums as a leader and another 20 as sideman and/or producer. Nils Landgren was artistic advisor to the NDR Bigband in Hamburg, and artistic director for the Jazzfest Berlin and the Bohuslän Bigband in Gothenburg. Since 2012, he has been artistic director of the JazzBaltica Festival. In 2009, in collaboration with Doctors without Borders, he started Funk for Life, a project which focuses on helping young men and women in Kenya and South Africa who need financial support for their studies to build a better future for themselves and their families. He has been decorated with two medals from King Carl Gustaf in Sweden and with the German Bundesverdienstkreuz. He is a doctor honoris causa at the University of Karlstad, and was a professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg. Nils Landgren last performed at the Philharmonie Luxembourg during the 2022/23 season.

Michael Wollny piano

Born in Schweinfurt in 1978, Michael Wollny has established himself as a pianist, an improviser and a composer. He has won numerous awards in Germany, a Choc de l'année from *Jazz Magazine*, a Ronnie Scott's Jazz Award, and Album of the Year at both *Jazzwise* and *The Times* for «Weltentraum» in 2014. Most recently, he recorded a solo album reflecting on the theme of solitude, «Mondenkind», and in spring 2024 a live album with his trio, of which he has been the leader for most of his career. His influence spanned from Alban Berg to Tori Amos and the Canadian band Timber Timbre. The range of musicians with whom he has worked is very broad: Albert Mangelsdorff, Gary Peacock, Michel Portal, Jim McNeely, Peter Erskine, Vince Mendoza, Pat Metheny and Donny McCaslin, and fellow German players like saxophonist Heinz Sauer, pianist Joachim Kühn or composer and vocalist Alex Nowitz, with whom he developed a project in 2015 interweaving the themes of a book by Thomas Bernhard with the musical works of Johann Sebastian Bach before going on to explore Ludwig van Beethoven and themes of heroism in 2019. He was artist in residence for festivals like the Rheingau Musik Festival and the Elbjazz Hamburg, where he was the first to hold the post; and in that role he worked with Geir Lysne and the Norwegian Wind Ensemble. He has also become a strong member of two «supergroups», Out of Land with Émile Parisien, Vincent Peirani and Andreas Schaerer, and 4 Wheel Drive with Wolfgang Haffner, Lars Danielsson and Nils Landgren. The range of composing commissions he has received includes recent high points like the new, partly improvised music for Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau's silent film *Nosferatu* with the Norwegian Wind Ensemble, and *Der Wanderer* with conductor and composer Christian Jost, commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonie. He wrote *Bau.Haus.Klang* for the centenary of the Bauhaus in 2019. Michael Wollny, Artist in Focus at the Philharmonie Luxembourg this season, last performed here during the 2023/24 season.

Lars Danielsson double bass, cello

Born in Gothenburg in 1958, Lars Danielsson studied classical cello at the conservatory in his hometown. By the 1980s, he had already worked not only with local and European artists such as Lars Jansson, Hans Ulrik, Carsten Dahl, Nils Landgren, Christopher Dell, Johannes Enders and Trilok Gurtu (of whose group he remained a member for some time), but also with musicians of the American scene such as Rick Margitza, Charles Lloyd, The Brecker Brothers, Terri Lyne Carrington, Jack DeJohnette, Billy Hart, John Scofield, Mike Stern and John Abercrombie. He is one of the few bassists to have emerged as a bandleader, a role which he performed, in particular, for 20 years in his own quartet with American saxophonist David Liebman, Swedish pianist Bobo Stenson and Norwegian drummer Jon Christensen, during which time they recorded ten albums together. Furthermore, this band laid the foundation for his work as a composer, arranger and producer. He has worked in these capacities with the Danish Radio Concert Orchestra, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the NDR Bigband, the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra and the JazzBaltica Ensemble, drummer Jonas Johanssen, and singers Viktoria Tolstoy and Cæcilie Norby. In the past few years, he recorded 35 albums for the ACT label, as leader or sideman. He worked, for example, with Polish pianist Leszek Możdżer, conductor Vince Mendoza, Sardinian trumpeter Paolo Fresu, and extensively with e.s.t. drummer Magnus Öström, British guitarist John Parricelli, Armenian pianist Tigran Hamasyan, and later, French-Caribbean pianist Grégory Privat in the Liberetto project. He performed a symphonic version of this concept and the compositions for it at the Leopold Jazz Fest. Lars Danielsson last played at the Philharmonie Luxembourg during the 2021/22 season.

Wolfgang Haffner drums

The career of the drummer and composer Wolfgang Haffner started at the age of 18 when he was discovered by trombonist Albert Mangelsdorff. The list of musicians he played, recorded and toured with is very long and includes Chaka Khan, Al Jarreau, Pat Metheny, The Brecker Brothers, Ivan Lins, Jan Garbarek, Gregory Porter, Michael Franks, Roy Ayers, Bugge Wesseltoft, The Manhattan Transfer, Nils Petter Molvaer, The JB Horns, Esbjörn Svensson, Bob James, Lee Ritenour, Till Brönner, Joe Sample, Larry Carlton, Cassandra Wilson, Clark Terry, Johnny Griffin, Nils Landgren, Mike Stern, Chuck Loeb, Hildegard Knef, Konstantin Wecker, Die Fantastischen Vier, the NDR Bigband, and the WDR Big Band. He also collaborates with artists of the electronic music scene such as Ricardo Villalobos, Timo Maas and Nightmares on Wax. He can be heard on about 400 albums, including 16 solo albums. He has played at all major jazz festivals around the world and toured in 100 countries, from Japan to the USA and from South Africa to Brazil. He also made himself a name as a producer for bands like Mezzoforte and German singer Max Mutzke. In 2010 and 2018 he was awarded an ECHO Musikpreis in the National Instrument of the Year category. During the fall of 2024, he presented live his new album «Life Rhythm». Wolfgang Haffner last played at the Philharmonie Luxembourg during the 2010/11 season.



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