

THOMAS MAREK TRIO

MAREK / BEBELAAR / RODER

New Album “FOOTPRINTS”

www.thomasmarek.com

Patrick Bebelaar piano
Jan Roder double bass
Thomas Marek drums & tap

THE TRIO

**Tap dancers are both dancers and musicians. And: tap has always been part of jazz.
That's nothing new. What's new and unusual, however, is this trio's approach: letting tap function as an independent, percussive voice in jazz — as a full-fledged percussion instrument within a contemporary, free and improvised musical context.**

When tap dancer and drummer Thomas Marek plays with his trio, movement becomes audible: the percussive sounds and rhythms of his taps and his drums merge with Bebelaar's compositions, freely reworked jazz standards, and the improvisations of his fellow musicians.

In their performance, pianist Patrick Bebelaar, bassist Jan Roder, and Thomas Marek redraw the boundaries of jazz and tap dance. They abandon classical song structures and dive into free improvisations, where rhythm, melody, and form are constantly renegotiated.

Marek's virtuosic tap dancing creates its own percussive language, turning the whole body into an instrument. The trio's powerful, expressive interplay produces an intense concert experience built on the musicians' communication with one another.

PRESS REVIEWS

"Thomas Marek didn't just dance to the music — he was a full-fledged soloist in a band that has a tap dancer in the front row instead of a saxophonist."
Jazzpodium

"Thomas Marek brings an old art form to new life."
Werner Stiefele, Stuttgarter Zeitung

"celebrates with breathtaking precision... everything jazz ever was or is today sparkles."
Frankfurter Neue Presse

ALBUM & MEDIA LINKS

ALBUM *“Footprints”*

HGBSBlue, 2025 The debut album of the Thomas Marek Trio

→ Spotify: open.spotify.com/album/3lLOgvuuXztrkGdTnD0NtQ

Promo Video

→ Promo-Video Thomas Marek Trio: https://youtu.be/8uPnMGQP6Wg

Presskit / Photos / Technical Rider

→ Dropbox Link to Thomas Marek’s Press Kit

THE ARTISTS

Thomas Marek — Tap Dance / Drums
For over 30 years, Thomas Marek has worked as a stage artist, choreographer, and teacher, blending traditional and modern forms of tap dance with contemporary musical and theatrical elements. Trained by, among others, Brenda Bufalino, Cholly Atkins, Barbara Duffy, and Jimmy Slyde, he toured the US with Bufalino's American Tap Dance Orchestra in the mid-1990s. Deeply rooted in jazz, Marek plays with tone, phrasing, and sound, developing his own percussive language in which the whole body becomes an instrument. He has choreographed and produced numerous full-length dance pieces (including "about_tap," "NOLA," and "ORCHESTRA – expansions & dimensions"), teaches internationally as a workshop leader, and regularly performs as a soloist at festivals across Europe and the US. Born in 1972 in Ludwigsburg, he now lives in Vienna, Austria.

Patrick Bebelaar — Piano
Patrick Bebelaar is one of Germany's most renowned jazz pianists. In 2000 he received the Jazz Prize of Baden-Württemberg and has composed works commissioned by the International Bach Academy and the German Literature Archive. His albums have received multiple international honors, including the German Record Critics' Award and "Album of the Year" from the New York City Jazz Record. He has performed for many years with international colleagues such as Michel Godard, Joe Fonda, Günter "Baby" Sommer, and Wolfgang Puschnig, and has collaborated across art forms with writers including Peter Härtling and Adonis.

Jan Roder — Double Bass
Jan Roder, born in 1968 in Lübeck, is regarded as one of the leading figures in free jazz improvisation of his generation. After studying jazz double bass in Hannover, he moved to Berlin in 1995, where he collaborates with musicians such as Axel Dörner, Rudi Mahall, and Alexander von Schlippenbach in projects including "Die Enttäuschung" and "Monks Casino." His musical home lies in (post-)free jazz and improvised music, always infused with the jazz tradition. Roder has played with figures such as Aki Takase, Peter Brötzmann, and Silke Eberhard, and has toured festivals across Europe, North America, and Asia.

CONTACT

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