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Martijn Vanbuel | double bass

Claude Diallo | piano

WenHui Tsai | vocal

三重奏

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# YUAN UAN A N T R I O

## ABOUT YUAN TRIO

Yuan Trio are Claude Diallo (Sw) on piano, Martijn Vanbuel (Bel) on double bass and Wen Hui Tsai (TW) on vocals. Three musicians each from different countries and different backgrounds, but thanks to the music, thanks to Taiwan and thanks to Yuan (Mandarin for predestination) they have found each other's musical personalities. They now present their debut project Yuan Trio, bringing their poetic original compositions, inspired by the music of Tom Harrell, Kenny Wheeler, Enrico Pieranunzi, but also Chinese and Taiwanese traditional music and other Asian styles. All together a new and fresh musical spectrum with western and eastern influences.

The Mandarin word “Yuan” refers to a kind of energy that brings people with predestination together, maybe also to be interpreted as “coincidence”. Taiwan is where this “Yuan” was generated and where the three of them met. Martijn Vanbuel is from Belgium, but has been residing in Taiwan for more than 5 years with his family. This is where he met Tsai Wen Hui, originally from Taiwan, who went the opposite way and moved to Belgium to persue her vocal Jazz studies with David Lynx. In Taiwan they also met Claude Diallo, from Switzerland, but as a true globetrotter traveled all over and lived in New York and Shanghai.



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*double bass*

## MARTIJN VANBUEL

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Double-bassist Martijn Vanbuel is from Belgium and studied jazz in the Lemmensinstituut conservatory of Leuven, Belgium with Philippe Aerts and at the Conservatoire Supérieure de Music et de Danse de Paris in France where he studied with Riccardo Del Fra. He has more than 15 years of playing experience, playing a wide variety of styles, from bebop to free jazz, from pop to ethnic and world; and sharing the stages with some of Belgium most well-known jazz-musicians such as Frank Vaganee, Dre Pallemmaerts, Robin Verheyen, etc... .

Martijn moved to Taipei in September 2006 and started performing intensively, soon becoming one of Taiwan most wanted musicians. He has appeared on performances with Matthew Lien, Zhang Hui Mei, Wang Li Hong. He occasionally accompanies international artists on their visit to Taiwan, such are Tony Lakatos, Alex Sipiagin, Joel Holmes, Andy Jaffe, Roy Patterson, Monday Michiru, James Carter,.etc...

In 2008 he joins the succesful world fusion group SiZhuKong and follows them touring all over Taiwan and abroad, including Java Jazz Festival 2008 (Indonesia), Jarasum Jazz Festival 2008 (Korea), JZ Jazz 2009 (Shanghai), Penang Jazz 2009 (Malaysia), Hong Kong Jazz 2009, a tour in Central America (2010) and Vilnius Jazz 2010 (Lituania).

Martijn leads his own experimental word-jazz group called Orbit Folks for which he composes and arranges music. In 2012 the group was invited to Jarasum Jazz (Korea) and Nanjing Jazz and Shanghai Jazz (China). Their first album "The Missing Lnk" was awarded best crossover album and best producer at the 2011 Taiwan Golden Melody Awards.

Martijn speaks fluent Mandarin and teaches jazz at the National Tainan University of Arts. Besides double bass he also perform on electric bass, piano and accordion.

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*piano*

## CLAUDE DIALLO

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Between 2004 and 2006, Claude Diallo completed his Bachelor Degree in Performance, under the guiding hands of Danilo Perez, Raymond Santisi, and Frank Carlberg, at the renowned Berklee College of Music. During his studies in Boston, he had the extraordinary privilege of learning from the late Charlie Banacos- truly one of the best jazz educators of our time! Acclaimed musicians Joe Lovano, Andy McGhee, Kenwood Dennard, and Bob Moses further helped Claude Diallo find his own voice.

In 2007 Claude Diallo followed his dream; to live and play jazz in New York City! He earned his Master's Degree from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queen's College in 2008. While there, he studied with David Berkman (piano), Michael Mossman (arrangement and composition), Antonio Hart (improvisation), and Dr. Howard Brofsky (jazz history).

Claude Diallo's many accolades include: finalist in 2009 at the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition and the 2008 and 2011 recipient of the Cultural Achievement Award from his hometown of St. Gallen. His performances range from solo piano to small bands as a leader and sideman, in locales including: New York, Boston, Washington D.C, Montreux Jazz Festival, Lucerne Festival, Zurich, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Tel Aviv, Sao Paulo, Tirana, Luxembourg, Berlin, Hannover, Munich, Stuttgart, Vienna, Paris, Madrid, the Dominican Republic and even the Islands of the Maldives. Claude Diallo organized his ASIA TOUR-2010 through Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong, taking his trio, Claude Diallo Situation, with him.

Claude Diallo has been privileged to accompany and record with such jazz greats as Andy McGhee, Denzal Sinclair, Luques Curtis, James Williams, Louis Cato, Daniel Schnyder, Julian Chan, Brad Leali, Bruna Caram, Jennifer Holliday, Beat Kaestli, Angelita Li and Kenwood Dennard.

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*vocal*

## Wen Hui Tsai

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Wen Hui Tsai is a Taiwanese talented and versatile jazz singer who already since her childhood played piano and sang in churches. She graduated with the honor in opera singing from the National Taiwan University of Arts, and won the first place of the Concerto Competition of National Taiwan University of Arts. She sang soprano in the sextet in one of Taiwan's most famous modern composers, Tai Hsiang Lee, and was featured as soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in the yearly concert of Nat. Taiwan Univ. of the Arts. Besides singing opera, Wen Hui Tsai also acted in a Chinese romantic Musical.

After an unforgettable jazz concert, Wen Hui discovered her passion for jazz, so she decided to pursue a career as a professional jazz singer. She applied into the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and is currently studying jazz vocals with David Linx and musical theory and piano with Diederik Wissels, Jeroen Van Herzeele, a.o. She is frequently invited to Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium to perform for many honorable guests from different countries such as Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission; Mark Eyskens, the ex-prime minister of Belgium and John Bercow, the chairmen of Parliament of the United Kingdom.

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## Song List

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### **The Missing Link** Martijn Vanbuel

A jazz ballad with a peculiar Chinese feel. The words are written in Mandarin and talk about a Jazz musician who is looking for his own sound.

### **Prasad** Martijn Vanbuel

After a trip to India Martijn wrote a composition using one very typical raga scale only, but it turned out to sound almost like a pop song. With Chinese words, talking about the gift live is.

### **Three Blind Men Touching an Elephant** Martijn Vanbuel

This strange title is actually a translation of a Chinese proverb, meaning that we never get to understand life as a whole, we are only touching a small part of it, but we never get the overall picture.

### **Sail Away** Tom Harrell

The classic bossa by Tom Harrell, on which we wrote our own set of words.

### **The Olive Tree** Tai Hsiang Lee

An arrangement of the great classic compositions by Taiwan's most famous composer Tai-Hsiang Lee.

## Contact

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## Media

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