



Gebhard Ullmann - 2026/27

„Gebhard Ullmann is one of the finest improvising artists in the world today“

(Paul Bley)

Born on November 2, 1957 in Bad Godesberg, German saxophonist (tenor and soprano), bass clarinetist, bass flutist and composer Gebhard Ullmann studied medicine and music in Hamburg and moved to Berlin in 1983.

Since then, he has recorded 65 CDs as a leader or co-leader for prestigious labels such as Soul Note (Italy), Leo Records (UK), Between The Lines (Germany), CIMP (USA), NotTwo Records (Poland), Clean Feed (Portugal), Intuition Records (Germany), WhyPlayJazz (Germany) and others.

With his more than 40 year old career, he is considered one of the leading personalities in both the Berlin and international music scenes and has received numerous awards for his work, including the Julius Hemphill Composition Award in two categories ('99), the Deutsche Phonoakademie award ('83 together with Andreas Willers), the SWF Jazz Award ('87 again together with Willers), the first Berlin Jazz Award (2017) and the German Jazz Award in the category "woodwinds" (2022). His album "Tá Lam" was nominated best-jazz-CD-of-the-year in 1995 and the CD "Silver White Archives" best-crossing-borders-CD-of-the-year in 2014 by the German prize "Schallplattenkritik".

His CDs "Final Answer" (2002), "The Bigband Project" (2004), "New Basement Research" (2008), "News? No News!" (2010), "Mingus!" (2011), "Clarinet Trio 4" (2012), "Hat And Shoes" (2017) were all listed in Downbeat Magazine among the best albums of those years. The album "Transatlantic" received the prestigious "Choc" of the French Jazz Magazine in 2012.

Since 2005 Gebhard Ullmann was listed in the Downbeat Critics Poll, 2015 for the first time in three categories.

Since 1993 Ullmann was a recording artist for Soul Note and has been living in New York City and Berlin. He has toured with his music throughout Europe as well as Africa, the Middle East, Canada, New Zealand, the USA, South East Asia, Mexico and China and performed on most of the world's most prestigious jazz festivals.

During the 80's Gebhard Ullmann was a leading force in the musicians' organisation JazzFront Berlin. Since the mid 90's he had a teaching assignment for saxophone and ensemble at the University of Music Hanns Eisler in Berlin for 10 years.



He also holds master classes at universities worldwide. From 2014 - 2018 he was the head of the German Jazz Musicians' Union.

Ullmann's working bands are the transatlantic projects 'The Chicago Plan' and 'Conference Call', the Berlin based 'Clarinet Trio', the electro acoustic trio 'Das Kondensat', the worldwide first quarter-tone-piano-quartet 'mikroPULS', the electro/acoustic sextet 'GULFH of Berlin' and the new multi-genre and multi-generational 'The Hemisphere Project'.

He is member of the 'Hannes Zerbe Jazz Orchestra', the projects of guitarist 'Scott DuBois' and the 'Satoko Fujii Berlin Orchestra'.

As a composer Gebhard Ullmann wrote for different chamber music ensembles, including two string quartets, several solo pieces for woodwind instruments and violin and a 61-minute series for piano solo entitled 'Impromptus und Iterationen', that was recorded in 2023 by Vitalii Kyianytsia and released in 2024.

He also composed several larger works for classical orchestra and a new score for the movie 'Berliner Stilleben' from 1929 by László Moholy-Nagy for the BuJazzO plus Choir as part of the project 'Klingende Utopien - 100 Jahre Bauhaus'.

2020 he published the Orchestersuite No.1, 2021 his first symphony entitled 'Symphonische Verwebungen for Orchestra, Voice, Piano and Percussion' and 2022 the 21-minute work 'Tá Lam For Large Orchestra'.

His compositions are distributed by the Universal Edition, Vienna.

Ullmann recorded or performed with Paul Bley, Andy Emler, Steve Swell, Han Bennink, Satoko Fujii, William Parker, Barry Altschul, Herb Robertson, Marvin Smitty Smith, Laurent Cugny, Ellery Eskelin, Bob Moses, Keith Tippett, Frank Gratkowski, Michael Zerang, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Sergeij Starostin, Tiger Okoshi, Bobby Previte, Ernst Ludwig Petrowsky, Glen Moore, Trilok Gurtu, Ab Baars, Andreas Willers, Lauren Newton, Andrew Cyrille, Sylvie Courvoisier, Frank Möbus, Lee Konitz, Alexander v. Schlippenbach, Benoit Achiary, Willem Breuker, Carlos Bica, Enrico Rava, Rita Marcotulli, Bob Stewart, Dieter Glawischnig, Tony Malaby, Günther Lenz, Drew Gress, Michael Rabinowitz, Matt Wilson, Ivo Papasov, the Ensemble Percussion de Guinee, Tyshawn Sorey, Karl Berger, Mark Helias, Gerry Hemingway, Joe Fonda, Michael Stevens, George Schuller, the European Radioorchestra, spoken word artist Sadiq Bey, the actor Otto Sander and many musicians from the Berlin scene as well as many others.

In 2027 he will celebrate his 70th birthday with several special projects.