

## **Hendrik Meurkens**

Born and raised in Hamburg, Germany, self-taught prodigy Hendrik Meurkens started the path of the musician in his teen years. After having achieved a great command of both the vibraphone and chromatic harmonica, he pursued formal studies at Berklee College in Boston as a vibraphone major. During that time he transcribed Charlie Parker solos and mastered them on the harmonica, and considered it a serious career path, along with the vibes.

In 1982 he moved to Rio de Janeiro, invited by Mauricio Einhorn, the great Brazilian harmonica player and composer of bossa nova, to immerse himself completely in the country's music styles. Mr. Meurkens' understanding of the Brazilian music vocabulary has since been praised by native Brazilian musicians, and his works are considered as true to this influence as those of a Brazilian composer.

Back in Europe, his unique voice on both instruments helped him position himself as an important musician on the European scene. Moving to the U.S. in 1992 after being signed by Concord Records, Mr. Meurkens became a regular of the New York Jazz scene. His recordings for Concord successfully introduced Mr. Meurkens to the global audience and established him as the first major new voice on the Jazz harmonica since Toots Thielemans.

Recognized as a trend-setter by fellow musicians, Mr. Meurkens has been repeatedly voted into the top spots of the leading Jazz magazines' reader and critic polls. His recordings enjoy critical praises, and several of them held the top spots in the nationwide Jazz and World Music radio charts. As a composer, Mr. Meurkens has established a deeply personal style that brings together his unique background, early interest in classical and traditional European music, decades of experience as a Jazz musician, and expertise in Brazilian styles: truly multicultural World Music. Mr. Meurkens' compositions have been recorded by luminaries of the music world, and are steadily becoming part of the Samba Jazz language.

As a featured artist, he has recorded and performed with the Ray Brown Trio, Paquito D'Rivera, Oscar Castro-Neves, Herb Ellis, Herbie Mann, James Moody, Charlie Byrd, Jimmy Cobb, Ivan Lins, Monty Alexander, Claudio Roditi, Manfredo Fest, Herb Ellis, Dori Caymmi, Toninho Horta, Harry 'Sweets' Edison, Buddy Tate, Mundell Lowe and Astrud Gilberto among many others. Hendrik Meurkens released 18 CDs as a leader and several CDs as a co-leader. His most recent releases are 'Live At Bird's Eye' and 'A Night In Jakarta'.

Contact:

**1-646-379-6712**

[hendrik@hendrikmeurkens.com](mailto:hendrik@hendrikmeurkens.com)