



Ep 132 – Max Ionata; International Jazz Veteran

by Donna VA | Jun 1, 2022 | Featured, Podcast | 0 comments



A veteran of the international jazz scene, Max Ionata emerged in the early 90s and has performed with many modern greats including Robin Eubanks, Billy Hart, Joe Locke, Mike Stern, Bob Mintzer and compatriot Stefano Di Battista.

For this episode, we did our interview over email, and Donna read the answers aloud for the audio and video podcast.



Donna: How did you get involved in the Swiss double bassist, Dominik Schürmann's, project, Moons Ago?

Max: When someone ask to me to be involved in a new project usually I ask to listen to the music because often happen that people call you without considering your style of playing and sometime I found myself playing music so distant to me.

Dominik contacted me one day because he listened to something on my Youtube channel and when he sent me some links to other recordings he released, I was very happy because he is a brilliant composer and a great player too. We recorded an album with 12 tunes in just one day like a band that used to play together every day! The other two musicians involved are two wonderful young people: Yuri Storione on piano and Janis Jaunalksnis on drums. This is the power of the music, when everything works well you have just to blow and everything happens.

Donna: Do you have a favorite song on that Moons Ago album?

Max: This is a 12 original songs album. All the compositions are written by Dominik Shurman, the leader and bass player of the album. His way of writing music is absolutely fantastic! 12 beautiful tunes that all have the taste of the great jazz standards with both wonderful harmony changes and melodies. If I have to choose one of them I think I would choose "Ramba Samba", a beautiful, melodic song that you keep singing once you've listened to it.

Donna: What other projects do you have coming up this year?

Max: I did a UK tour of gigs in jazz clubs all over the country earlier this year, and in April, I'm touring with my Danish trio in Spain with Jesper Bodilsen and Martin Maretti Andersen, both fantastic Danish musicians.

In the meantime, I have many gigs here in Italy with a new quartet and at the end of this year, I'll be on tour with Dominik Shurman to present "MOONS AGO" between Switzerland and Germany.

