

Biography Onno Kelk

Onno Kelk, born in 1956, may safely be called a versatile guitarist. He has his “roots” both in the Jazz as well as in the Blues, a combination which amounts to the savory sauce that characterizes his personal sound. His versatility can especially be seen when one looks at the impressive list of musicians with whom, and stages and festivals on which, he has performed.

Musical education

'71 - '75 Classical guitarlessons (one year conservatory). '78 - '80 Private lessons in Jazzguitar. '80 - '85 Study Improvising Musician Electric guitar at the Conservatory in Amsterdam (amongst others with the German guitarteacher Eddy Marron). Several workshops with amongst others: John Scofield, Mike Stern, Joe Pass, Barney Kessel en Randy Bernsen. Incidental private lessons with the legendary Dutch Jazzguitarist Wim Overgaauw. He graduated in 1985.

Musical activities

Onno Kelk played from '72 until '80 in several pop- and bluesgroups. From '80 until now he played with several Jazzgroups and musicians from in and around Amsterdam, where he has lived for more than 20 years. From '85 on he led his own trio or quartet with various musicians, amongst others: Tim Armacost (tenorsax U.S.A.), Machiel Scholder (trumpet), Wim Dijkgraaf (bassguitar), Frans van der Hoeven, Stefan Lievestro (double bass), Angelo Verploegen (trp.) and Fred van Vloten (drs.).

Besides this he played from '83 until '02 with Max Teawhistle, a stubborn Jazzvocalist from Den Oever with his 'Friends of Bop'. With this group he made 2 cds and played 5 times at the North Sea Jazz Festival. During the same period, from January 1986 on, he picked up his old passion “the

Blues”, as he started the hobbyist Bluesband 'Jumping Arnold & the Blackjacks' with a couple of old friends. With this group he has played on almost all the Bluesfestivals in Holland fairly successfully and with a lot of enthusiasm - "go for it!", that's the motto.

From '87 until the summer of '94 he was a member of the Dick de Graaf Septet. With this group he made 4 albums, including for the Timeless-label. They performed on several stages and festivals, at home and abroad: North Sea JazzFestival (2 times), Jazz Mecca, Nos JazzFestival in Amsterdam, Leverkusen, Viersen, Mannheim and the Montreal JazzFestival in Canada (1992). With this Septet he also did some radio-recordings for the majority of the Dutch broadcasting operations, including (Tros) Sesjun, and they did a television performance for Han Reizigers 'Reiziger in Muziek' (VPRO).

Besides the festivals that have already been mentioned, he has also played with his bands on all the famous Jazzfestivals in the Netherlands, such as Amersfoort Jazz, Jazz in Duketown, Rondje Texel, Jazz in Keistad, Middelsee Leeuwarden etc. etc. He has also played on all the Dutch and German Jazzstages like the BIM-huis (Amsterdam), Paradox (Tilburg), Wilhelmina (Eindhoven), de Burcht (Delft), Vredenburg (Utrecht), SJU-huis (Utrecht), de Spieghele (Groningen), der Fabrik (Frankfurt), die Röhre (Stuttgart), Balver Höhle, de Jazzclubs in Hannover, Bonn, Braunschweig, Mönchen-Gladbach, Minden etc. etc.

Besides all this he has done a lot of freelance gigs with famous and less famous musicians, including, in random order: Ludo Doomernik, Colette Wickenhagen, Martin Zand Scholten, Jos Machtel, Olaf Hoeks, Fred Leeflang, Erik Timmermans, Frits Landesbergen, Cor Bakker, Hans Dijkstal, Bernhard Reinke, Ben Jansen, Hans Dulfer, Johnny Meijer, Jean-Louis van Dam, John Engels, Henk Zomer, Chris Strik, Ferry Smans, Egon Kracht, Arnold Dooijeweerd, Debby Poryes, Hans Sparla, Joop van Erven, Carel van Rijn, Wiro Mahieu, Rein van de Broeck, Fred van Opzeland, Hans Kwakkernaat, Eric Vloeimans, Sjoerd Dijkhuizen, Cees van de Laarsse, Peter Ennen, Jan Reijnen, Hans Ruigrok, Maarten Kruiswijk, Truus Engels, Kim Weemhof, Klaas Wit, Bob Richter, Hermine Deurloo, Deetje Kaart, Dick Remelink, Eric Calmes, Cees Meerman, Freddy Cavalli, Rinus Groeneveld, Angelo Verploegen, Bert Joris, Eric van de Westen, Pierre van de Linden, Joop van Enkhuizen, Mike del Ferro, Stefan Liestro, Frans van

der Hoeven, Tim Armacost, Peter Hengst, Will Derks, Charles Nagtzaam, Pieter Douma, Bram Weiland, Ton Dijkman, Fred van Vloten, Wim Dijkgraaf, Peter Klukken, Wim de Vries, Michaël Bürger, Michaël Gustorff, Machiel Scholder, Dick de Graaf, Max Teeuwisse, Miguel Boelens, Gé Bijvoet, Henk de Ligt, Marcel van Cleef, Ben Schröder, Hans Houtman, Sean Bergin, Hans van de Hurk, Serge Lazarevitz, Frank van Oosterhout, Hans van Oosterhout, Jaap Berends, Jolande Geven, Arnold van Dongen, Jack van Poll, Bill Arensma, Lex Lammen, Nanning van der Hoop, Wim Kegel, Franc auf den Brinke, JanHein van Huizen, Ray Appleton, Erik Koger, Mark Eshuis, Remco van der Sluis, Leo Bouwmeester, Lils Mackintosh, Jilt Jansma, Carl Schulze, Clous van Mechelen, Boris Vanderlek, Jelle Oortman Gerlings, Willem Hellebreker, Mischa Kool, Hans Beun, Frans Rondé, Joris Teepe, Patrick van Helsdingen, Menno Veenendaal, Wies Ingwersen, Niek van Wiggen, Ronald Zeldenrust a.o.. In march '96 he participated in the ensemble of teachers of the School of Arts (now called Artez) Arnhem, with which he played the music of Frank Zappa. This ensemble was specifically founded for the Zappa-projectweek that year. This resulted, amongst others, in a performance for the broadcasting network VPRO, again for the show 'Reiziger in Muziek'.

Since the summer of 2004 Onno Kelk's main activity is teaching because in that summer he was hit by a brain haemorrhage (stroke). After a short period of being totally paralysed on his left side, a long period of recovery started.

Experiences as a teacher

'81 - '83 School of Music IJmuiden '82 – Present private lessons. Mostly students who want to do audition for the conservatory and people who want to play Jazz and Blues. '84 - Present Conservatory department Popular Music (currently 'Jazz & Pop') in Arnhem:

Main-subject Guitar, Tilt – Classes and Guitar - Rhythm.

Occasionally he was in charge of workshops via “The Swing”, the SJU-huis and other places in the Netherlands.