

## Jo Beyer Vita (englisch)

Jo Beyer (\*1991) is a German drummer and composer. At an early age he was exposed to a variety of jazz music and musicians from the local scene via his father Andreas Wahl, a jazz guitarist. His unique and energetic manner of playing drums, composing and collaborating with different musicians has allowed him to reach and delight a wide audience across the globe.

As child he started playing the piano and switched to drums later on, which he studied at Hochschule Osnabrück (Germany) as well as Royal Academy of Music Aarhus (Denmark). He primarily works with his own quartet *JO* and the trio *Malstrom* which has already released four albums (one with piano player Florian Weber) and played large tours all over the world.

His own band *JO*, which he founded in 2015 and composes the music for, recently released their second album and plays with all elements of musicals parameter, which combines his unique way of playing drums and expressing his music to arrive at a very communicative and improvised interpretation as well as uncompromised fun with his own catchy compositions. He also works a lot with the extreme dynamic range of playing highly energetic music and does research in creating experimental sounds on the drumset.

The experimental quality of Jo Beyer's music coupled with his signature emotive expression, has led jazz-award juries to recognize him as being disruptive and innovative in the contemporary scene and supported his musical idea with awarding him a bunch of renowned international new comer jazz prizes. Next to intense touring all over the world and holding workshops, also in cooperation with Goethe Institut, in about 15 countries he regularly participates in radio- and television productions. Additionally to his work as bandleader he plays a lot in different bands and projects as sideman and recorded a bunch of CDs.

During international touring Jo Beyer was invited to renown festivals such as Int. Jazzwoche Burghausen (Germany), Elbjazz (Germany), Jazzfest Bonn (Germany), Oslo Jazzfestival (Norway), OCT Jazz Festival Shenzhen (China), B-Jazz Festival (Belgium), Krokus Jazz Festival (Poland), World Youth Jazz Festival (Malaysia), Getxo Jazzfestival (Spain), Tremplin d'Jazz Avignon (France) etc.

Many jazz magazines are enthusiastic about Jo Beyer's way of playing.  
Some quotes regarding his last album of *JO*, he released as bandleader in September 2019:

*"JO has humour but also seriousness, chutzpah and dedication. His music has vitality and abysses and his band knows how to play with all these aspects of his tunes."* (Jazzthetik)

*"It is jazz in the good old sense on the one hand but it is also music in the here and now - a difficult combination but achieved here in absolute spades. That potential I spoke of in my earlier review is now realised and this band, with this composer are a force to be reckoned with. Good composition, great interpretation, wonderful music."* (Jazzviews)

*"Each performer [of Jo Beyer's band] seems to have the ability to understand one another and thus their approach to jazz. This is evident in the complete togetherness of all instruments and their contribution. Jo Beyer is certainly a name to watch out for in the near future!"* (Jazz in Europe)

### **Awards:**

Int. Biberacher Jazzpreis 2018  
Tremplin D'Jazz Avignon (Prix du Public) 2018  
Int. Getxo Jazz Competition 2017  
Sparda Jazz-Award 2016  
European Burghauser Jazzpreis 2015  
Sparda Jazz-Award 2015  
Study Up Award Hochschule Osnabrück 2013