

Tomáš „Kaštan“ Baroš

Tomáš „Kaštan“ Baroš was born in 1985 in Teplice but has lived in Prague since he was five. At the age of six he started to play the piano. He started listening to jazz from recordings of world's famous trumpeters (Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Chat Baker etc.) which had his father, Julius Baroš, a renowned jazz trumpeter, at home. At the age of twelve, he started playing double bass, learning from the members of Czech philharmonic orchestra, Pavel Nejtek, Jiří Valenta, and later Anton Masnica. In 1999 he won in state wide classical competition in Trutnov in his category. From 2000 to 2005 he studied the double bass at Prague conservatory in professor Květoslav Borovička's class. His studies, however, finished with absolutorium at the International conservatory in Prague led by Petr Ries.

At the age of fourteen, he already played at his father's band, Julius Baroš quartet, in Prague's jazz clubs and with leading jazz musicians of the Czech and Slovak scene, such as: Ondřej Štveráček, Karel Růžička, Najponk, Emil Viklický, Rosta Fraš, Štěpán Markovič, Pavel Wlosok, Zdeněk Fišer, Radovan Tariška, Ondrej Krajňák, Klaudius Kováč, Luboš Šrámek, Marián Ševčík, Ida Kellarová, Matúš Jakabčic and Milo Suchomel.

In 2003 he was awarded title „The soloist of the year“ at the international Junior Jazz in Ústí nad Labem. Two years later, he received a grant at Berklee College of Music in Boston, which he did not take advantage of, and began cooperation with radio big band of Gustav Brom, accompanying Czech pop music stars, such as: Karel Gott, Helena Vodráčková, Petr Janda, Bára Basiková, Jitka Zelenková, Peter Lipa, and also other world's renown interpreters like Joan Faulkner, New York voices, James Morrison, Roberta Gambarini, Alex Sipiagin, Igor Buttman and Boris Kozlov. Tomáš is also a member of Czechoslovak big band of Matúš Jakabčic and other projects, such as Ondřej Štveráček quartet, Ida Kellarová and Jazz Famelija, Radovan Tariška and his Folklore to Jazz, Hanka Gregušová Band, Zeuritia, Petr Beneš quartet, Kaunis five, Miroslav Hloucal quartet, Harry Sokal Free Tenors and Roman Jánoška Jazz consort.

In 2007 he played together with brilliant double bass player George Mráz at the jazz standard concert of sisters Ida Kellarová and Iva Bittová at the sold out Prague Lucerna music hall. In 2012 he won the first prize with Miroslav Hloucal quartet in the international Jazz Prix competition. As a sideman, he can count around 40 records, and he traveled throughout the whole Europe, where he performed at various prestigious festivals.

Nowadays Tomáš Baroš ranks among the most sought-after double bass players not only in Czech Republic but also in Slovakia and gets contracts from foreign artists, such as Polish trumpeter Piotr Wojtasik, Austrian saxophonist Harry Sokal, Kornel Fekete Kovac from Hungary or American trumpeter Ryan Carniaux who lives in Germany. He collaborated with stars of the world jazz scene including Benny Golson, Rick Margitza, Antonio Faraó, Gene Jackson, Vincent Herring, Dennis Rowland, Eric Allen, Deborah Davis, Joe Cohn, Paul Bollenback, John Betsch, Brian Charrette, Tony Lakatos, Kalman Olah, Igor Buttman, Douglas Sides, Osian Roberts, Benito Gonzales, Winand Gabor, Karen, Edwards and Peter Beets.