

## Ferenc Snétberger

(Guitar)



The international jazz scene has no lack of good guitar players, so it is not easy to develop a personal sound. Ferenc Snétberger has succeeded in creating a style of his own. Combining the elements of Brazilian and Indian music with the improvisational technique of jazz, he captivates the audience with his harmonic inventiveness and mild, warm tone.

He attended the Jazz Faculty of Bartók Conservatory between 1978 and 1982 and since has played at festivals in Ljubljana, Belgrade, Bratislava and has made tours in Austria, Finland, and West-Germany. A leader of a trio with bassist Béla Lattman and conga player/flutist Kornél Horváth, he also works as a soloist. In addition, he is founding member of Trio Stendhal.

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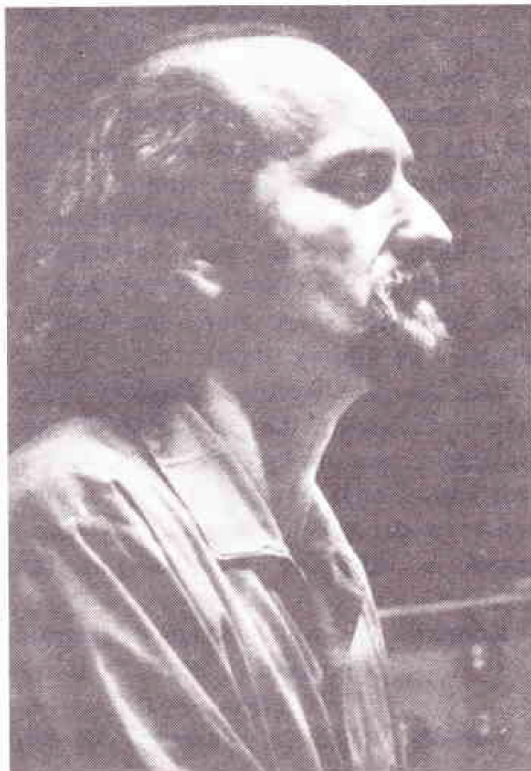
## György Szabados

(Piano, composer, leader)

One of the basic questions concerning the development of contemporary jazz is the proportion of ethnic dialects giving special characteristics to this universal language. Unfortunately, little is known about the peculiarities

of the East-European countries although, according to many, fresh impulses can be expected from this part of the Globe. The work and art of György Szabados is a genuine contribution to this process.

Born in 1939, he studied music privately. He formed his first band in 1955 and has appeared with his own groups ever since. Already in 1962-63, he was giving free jazz concerts in Budapest which, with their spontaneous emotional effect, their unusually complex harmonic and rhythmic realm, opened a new field in Hungarian jazz surprisingly synchronized with the avant garde phenomena in international jazz, especially the music of Coltrane, Shepp and Cecil Taylor. His conceptions burst open the framework of jazz forms and styles of the day. He instinctively built his musical idiom on the soil of the rubato type Hungarian folksong and the oriental asymmetric rhythm so familiar from Bartók's music — an idiom which revealed new dimensions of the genre and led to a strongly controlled, but free music performance of great improvisatory possibilities.



The first international success for Szabados came in 1972 at the San Sebastian Jazz Festival where he won the first prize of the free category with his quintet. His groundbreaking LP, entitled "The Wedding", summed up his musical achievements and was released in 1974. In the second half of the seventies he gained enthusiastic local public appreciation with his constant trio (Sándor Vajda — b, Antal Faragó — dr). The 80's have at last brought deserved international recognition of his music. His debut at the Daxberg Festival in 1983 turned out to be a grandioso success, and since then he has played at such noted places as the Oper of Cologne and the Alternative Music Festival in Vienna. His meeting with Anthony Braxton, for the initiative of the latter, resulted in concerts and a recording released in Hungary.

György Szabados is not only a musician but an artist (poet, author) devoted to expressing his ideas rooted in particular social and geographical determinations. His serious musical approach and individuality earned him an almost glorified respect in intellectual and jazz spheres. He is a true creator of Hungarian jazz and music in general, a schoolsetter musician, surrounded by a branch of followers. Szabados was a healing force of the Contemporary Music Workshop of Kassák Club, one of the avant garde centers in the capital, which gives home to a circle of young musicians teamed up to perform his compositions.

Today Szabados's compositional directions transcend the strict idiom of jazz: they cover various means of expression from minimal music to symphonic orchestration, recently focusing on the origins of ancient Hungarian music, i.e. the folk traditions of Middle-Asia, leading to long pieces like "Ceremony Music", "Time Music" and "A Peripheric Concert", resolving the different elements in his sovereign musicality. In 1985 he was awarded Hungary's top musical performing decoration, the "Liszt"-prize. His compo-

sitions are regularly performed at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music at contemporary music series.

György Szabados at present works with his sextet, the ten-piece MAKUZ Orchestra and also as a soloist, using both acoustic and altered piano.

**Records:** Szabados: The Wedding (Hungaroton SLPX 17475 — 1974)

Szabados: Adyton (Krém SLPX 17724 — 1982)

Szabados and Braxton: Szabraxtondos (Krém SLPX 17909 — 1984)

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## Béla Szakcsi Lakatos

(Piano, composer)



It there are so-called "born" jazz musicians, Béla Szakcsi Lakatos (1943) is one of them. He studied classical music until the age of sixteen, when jazz and dance music attracted him to the night life of show business. He played in Budapest and abroad in various bands, in the meantime preparing himself to become a full-time jazz musician. His talent was discov-