

# Frank Gratkowski

## **Alto saxophone, clarinet, bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, composition**

Born in Hamburg, 1963. Started playing the saxophone at 16 and, following a period at the Hamburg Conservatory of music, moved in 1985 to study at the Cologne Conservatory of Music with Heiner Wiberny, graduating in 1990. Since 2008 he lives also in Berlin.

Further studies with Charlie Mariano, Sal Nistico and Steve Lacy.

Frank Gratkowski has been working as a soloist in various international formations (Grubenklang Orchester, Apartment House, Musikfabrik NRW, BikBentBraam, Zeitkratzer, WDR Orchestra, WDR Big band, Münchener Kammerorchester, etc.). Since 1990 he has been giving solo performances throughout Europe, Canada and USA. With his first solo program "Artikulationen", he was a 1991 prizewinner in the *Musik Kreativ* contest. Since 1992 he has been working in a duo with the pianist Georg Graewe. which is often extended through the participation of different additional musicians, such as drummer Paul Lovens and bassist John Lindberg.

In 1995 he founded the "Frank Gratkowski Trio" with Dieter Manderscheid (Germany), bass, and Gerry Hemingway (USA), drums. In 2000 the trio has been extended to a quartet by Dutch trombonist Wolter Wierbos. Since 2003 also appearing as a Double Quartet plus Tobi Delius, Herb Robertson, Wilbert DeJoode and Michael Vatcher. In 2005 he got the SWR Jazzprize. 2001 the Trio Kaufmann / Gratkowski / DeJoode has been

founded and from 2004 he has been co leading and composing for the James Joyce Orchestra which turned in 2008 into the Multiple Joy[ce] Orchestra. Since 2006 he's working with the Trio Gratkowski / Brown / Winant which played in 2009 at the Donaueschinger Musiktage. He is also a co-leader of the Multiple Joy[ce] Orchestra and got in got a commission to compose a piece for the ensemble Apartment House by "November Music " (Den Bosch NL) and the "Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival" (England) in 2009. Since 2008 he has been working with the ensemble "Fo[u]r Alto", specialized in microtonal music for which he composed the first program.

Frank Gratkowski played on nearly every German and on numerous international Jazz and New Music Festivals including Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago, New York, Seattle, Quebec, Les Mans, Muelhuus, Groningen, Nickelsdorf, Barcelona, Lithuania, Warsaw, Zagreb, Prague, Bratislava, Sofia, Bucharest, Odessa, Belgrad, Madrid, Barcelona, Göteborg, Huddersfield, London and Roma.

He has been teaching saxophone, ensemble and composition at the Cologne, and Arnhem Conservatory of Music and is giving workshops all around the world.

Furthermore he has performed with Robert Dick, Phil Wachsmann, Radu Malfatti, Herb Robertson, Marcio Mattos, Eugenio Colombo, Peter Kowald, Ray Anderson, Michael Moore, Ken Vandermark, Greg Osby, Kenny Wheeler, Louis Sclavis, John Betsch, Jane Ira Bloom, Connie and Hannes Bauer, Xu Fengxia, James Newton, Muhal Richard Abrams, John Lindberg, Michael Formanek, Ernst Reijseger, Fred van Hove, Theo Jörgensmann, Phil Minton, Peter Brötzmann, Mark Dresser, Mark Feldman, Hamid Drake, Michiel Braam, Han Bennink, Zeena Parkins, Mal Waldron, Misha Mengelberg, Beat Furrer a.m.o.

His discography count's more than 30 CDs under his own name and many others as sideman.

CDs (selection)

-Frank Gratkowski "Artikulationen",	2nd Floor Edition
-Gratkowski - Graewe "Vicissitudes"	random acoustics
-Georg Graewe's GrubenklangOrchester "Flavours, Fragments"	ITM Rec
-Earl Howard "Pele's Tears"	random acoustics
-Michael Moore "tunes for horn guys"	RAMBOY Rec.
-Tony Oxley "The Enchanted Messenger"	Soul Note
-Frank Gratkowski Trio "Gestalten"	Jazzhausmusik
-Georg Graewe Quartet "Melodie und Rhythmus"	Okkadisk
-Frank Gratkowski Trio "The Flume Factor"	random acoustics
-Loft Exil 3 "Live at Moers Festival 98"	2nd Floor Edition
-Frank Gratkowski Trio "Quicksand"	Meniscus Records
-Simon Nabatov Quartet "Nature Morte"	Leo Records
-Frank Gratkowski Quartet "Kollaps"	Red Toucan Rec.
-Gratkowski / Graewe / Lindberg "Arrears"	Red Toucan Rec.
-Gratkowski / van Hove / Oxley "GratHovOx"	Nuscope Records
-Frank Gratkowski "Artikulationen II"	2nd Floor Edition
-Frank Gratkowski Quartet "Spectral Reflections"	Leo Records
-Gratkowski / Bryerton / Smith "The Voice Imitator (Live in San Francisco)"	balance point acoustics
-Kaufmann/ Gratkowski/ DeJode "Kwast"	Konnex Rec.
-Frank Gratkowski Quartet "Facio"	Leo Records
-Frank Gratkowski Project "Loft Exile V"	Leo Records
-Kaufmann/ Gratkowski/ DeJode "Unearth"	Nuscope Records
-Gerry Hemingway Quintet "Double Blues Crossing"	Between the Lines
-Gratkowski/Lehn/Poore "Triskaidekaphonia"	Leo Records
-James Choice Orchestra "Live in Moers"	Moers Musik
-Frank Gratkowski vis-à-vis Misha Mengelberg	Leo Records
-Leo Records "25th Anniversary - Loft/Köln"	Leo Records
-Gratkowski/Robertson/Nabatov/Manderscheid "Celebrations"	Leo Records
-James Choice Orchestra "Live at Musiktriennale Köln"	Leo Records
-Kaufmann/ Gratkowski/ DeJode "Palaë"	Leo Records
-Gratkowski / Brown / Winant "Wake"	Red Toucan Rec.
-Gratkowski/ Nabatov/ Schmickler "Deployment"	Leo Records
-Gratkowski/Anderskov "Ardent Grass"	Red Toucan Rec.
-Shift! "Songs from Aipotu"	Leo Records
-Duh: Gratkowski/Mezei/Markos/Blume "In Just"	Red Toucan Rec.
-Frank Gratkowski Quartet "le vent et la gorge"	Leo Records
-Fo[u]r Alto "4 compositions by Frank Gratkowski"	Leo Records
-Gratkowski / Brown / Winant "Vermilion Traces / Donaueschingen 2009"	Leo Records
-Kaufmann/ Gratkowski/ DeJode "Geäder"	Gligg Records