



## The Great Harry Hillman

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE MUSICIANS

**Nils Fischer** is a saxophone and bassclarinet player with a favour for low frequencies. Born in 1988 in Gelsenkirchen (GER), he enjoys saxophone lessons with Andreas Krennerich at Musikschule Germersheim. In 2008 he moves to Lucerne for his jazz studies. Urs Leimgruber, Reto Suhner and Frank Möbus deeply influence his musical personality. In July 2013, he finishes his "Master of Performance", in February 2015 his "Master of Pedagogy" and in July 2020 his "Bachelor of Music and Movement". His working band The Great Harry Hillman (w. David Koch - Git; Samuel Huwyler - Bass and Dominik Mahnig - Drums) is playing tours through Europe since 2009. In spring 2015 the band wins the well-known ZKB-Jazzpreis at Moods - Zurich. Nils Fischer is sideman with the groups (amongst others) Blaer, Zurich Jazz Orchestra, Degrees Above, Strahl. Loher.Fischer, Der grosse Bär and Performance Wesen.

**David Koch** is a songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, producer, vintage synth fetishist and circuit-bender. At the tender age of 10, he started touring as a flautist in a klezmer/Irish folk outfit named Planxy Irwin. Discovering John Zorn's music led him to drop the flute and pick up the guitar. But, most importantly, it opened the portal that ushered him into the fractal maze of experimental music. Which, BTW, he hasn't been able to leave thus far!

Koch studied jazz guitar at Lucerne University under Frank Möbus. While studying, he formed The Great Harry Hillman, an improv quartet with a moody, Lynchian streak. The band tours extensively, hence, it's been largely responsible for helping him hone his sculptural sound. Heavily intrigued by the formal limitations of pop, Koch also formed a trio called VSITOR (with Lea Maria Fries and Valentin Liechti). Their only full length release (Keep on Running) introduced him to yet another dimension of music making: the studio-as-instrument approach. Koch released his debut solo record titled 'Dormant,' in May 2023, which, in his own words, "connects the dots between everything that I did thus far, but also articulates exactly how I hear music."

**Samuel Huwyler** uses his creativity as a source for his work in music and graphics. Born in 1988 in Endingen Switzerland as a son of a jazz drummer music surrounded him permanently. Musical instruments and drawing utensils evoked his passion to implement and present his ideas in early years. After 4 years of lessons in classical guitar he discovered the electric guitar and founded his first rock band "TRD". Fascinated by string instruments he changed to electric bass at 16, this was the crucial point for his later studies at Hochschule Luzern. Wolfgang Zwiauer, Uli Heinzler and Heiri Känzig influenced his career as a bass player. In 2013 he passed his "Master of Arts - Major Performance Jazz". The Aargauer Kuratorium invested him with a grant in 2015. In addition to "The Great Harry Hillman", he works as a sideman on various jazz and pop projects and runs the graphic design studio "Humus Artwork".

**Dominik Mahnig**, born in Willisau (CH), is a percussionist, improviser and composer. He began his studies in 2008 at the HS Lucerne - Music and graduated in 2015 with a Master of Arts at the HfMT Cologne. His playing can be heard on over 30 releases and in various radio productions.

He is co-leader of The Great Harry Hillman and The True Harry Nulz, the Zoom Trio and Placebo Domingo. He explores the combination of Eurorack synthesiser and percussion to create an electro-acoustic soundscape. His artistic achievements have been recognised and awarded several times, e.g. in 2015 with the ZKB Jazz Prize (with The Great Harry Hillman), in 2017 with the Cologne Jazz Prize (Horst and Gretl Will Scholarship) and the new German Jazz Prize 2017 with the Tamara Lukasheva Quartet. He also plays with the following bands and musicians: Philip Zoubek Trio, Sebastian Gramss' States of Play Athina Kontou - Mother, In Cahoots (Gratkowski, Zoubek, Landerman, DM) Jonas Engels Own Your Bones, Ava Mendoza, Simon Nabatov, Leonhard Huhn, Christian Lorenzen, David Helm, Luise Volkmann, Lotte Anker, etc.