

ERIC HOFBAUER "is one of the most genuinely original guitarists of his generation," declares All About Jazz Italia's Mario Calvitti, "capable of renewing the language of jazz guitar with a fresh and iconoclastic approach, but without disrespect to tradition. This distinguishes him from the vast majority of his colleagues, and makes him and his work, worthy of careful consideration." Hofbauer has been integral to Boston's jazz scene for twenty-five years, as a musician, bandleader, organizer and educator. Recognized in the 2022, 2019 and 2017 DownBeat Critics' Poll for Rising Star – Guitar, he is widely known for his solo guitar work, featured in a collection of solo guitar recordings (American Vanity, American Fear, American Grace and Ghost Frets), and as the leader of the Eric Hofbauer Quintet (EHQ). The EHQ's series of four "Prehistoric Jazz" recordings, featuring Hofbauer's jazz arrangements of Stravinsky, Messiaen, Ellington, and Ives, placed consecutively on the Boston Globe's Top 10 Jazz Albums of the Year lists, and received critical acclaim from leading press such as Downbeat, The Wire, and Tone Audio. Hofbauer has also performed and recorded alongside such notable collaborators as Han Bennink, Roy Campbell, Jr., John Tchicai, Garrison Fewell, Cecil McBee, George Garzone, Sean Jones, John Fedchock, Noah Preminger, Steve Swell and Matt Wilson.

FIVE AGENTS biographies

JERRY SABATINI has gained recognition in the Boston jazz scene as an adventurous, creative and diverse trumpet player, composer and educator. Known for his diverse musical tastes, Jerry performs in projects ranging from traditional Jazz to Balkan brass bands to music of the Middle and Far East to the Avant Garde. For the past twenty five years he has been working with many of the New England's great bands such as The Boston Jazz Composer's Alliance, The Makanda Project, Garrison Fewell's Variable Density Orchestra, Mehmet Sanlikol's Dunya, The Revolutionary Snake Ensemble, and Charlie Kohlhase's Explorers Club. He has also shared the stage with influential musicians such as Oliver Lake, John Tchicai, Fred Frith, Elliot Sharp, Anthony Coleman, and Erkan Oğur. Since 1995, Jerry has composed and arranged for his own project, an octet called Sonic Explorers. Sonic Explorers have four independently released CDs. Sabatini has been commissioned for modern big band and jazz combo works, teaches privately, and is a frequent clinician and conductor at New England colleges, universities and high schools.

SETH MEICHT is Boston based saxophonist, composer, and educator. Nate Chinen, from The New York Times says, "Meicht is a tenor saxophonist with a robust tone and a venturesome streak, though he isn't averse to swinging." Since arriving in Boston by way of New York City and Philadelphia, Seth performs regularly with the areas top creative musicians. Projects include Seth Meicht and the Big Sound Ensemble, Charlie Kohlhase's Explorers Club, and Eric Hofbauer's 5 Agents. Select recordings include Seth Meicht and the Big Sound Ensemble: Live in Philadelphia (CIMPOL), Illumine (CIMP), Loud Like Hemlocks (Scrapple Records). Seth spent several years working with his mentor Odean Pope in Philadelphia and New York. As a member of Odean's world famous Saxophone Choir, Seth can be heard on the recording Locked and Loaded: Live and the Blue Note (Half Note) with guests James Carter, Joe Lovano, and Michael Brecker. Seth has been fortunate to share the stage and ideas with several other influential artists such as Ravi Coltrane, Byard Lancaster, Bobby Zankel, Darius Jones, Mike Pride, and Steve Swell. In addition to performances and the Blue Note in New York, Seth has performed at

the Vision Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival, Charlie Parker Jazz Festival, The Stone, and the Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), as well as many top clubs and performance spaces in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

ANTHONY LEVA is a multi-disciplinary artist & educator in Cambridge, MA. Most comfortable on upright bass, Anthony regularly performs with the Unima Award winning puppetry troupe, the Gottabees, as well as the Dylan Jack Quartet, Charlie Kohlhase's Explorer's Club, Eric Hofbauer, Brian Carpenter, Samodivi and Jaggery. He is an active collaborator in the Boston Art's scene where his omnivorous appetite for creativity and collaboration spans theatre, film, puppetry, folk music (Americana, African, and Balkan), as well as jazz, improvised and classical music. In addition to bass, Anthony also plays sintir (a North African bass lute). Anthony has recorded over 30 albums to date. Most recently Anthony made his debut on turntables and the SP 303 sampler on *Book of Fire* (Creative Nation Music), a duo album with Eric Hofbauer in which their acoustic performance is augmented by the addition of electronic instrumentation and the intertwined recordings of literary giant James Baldwin.

CURT NEWTON (drums) coaxes whispers from drumsets and swing from stacks of rattly stuff, weaving varied musical traditions together in the spirit of serious playfulness. Over the past three decades, Curt has performed across the U.S., Canada and Europe and appears on over 30 CDs with some of contemporary music's leading figures including Ken Vandermark, Joe Morris, Nate McBride, Pandelis Karayorgis, Charlie Kohlhase, Dave Bryant, and Steve Norton, and most recently as the drummer in the Eric Hofbauer Quintet. About one live performance, the Chicago Reader's Peter Margasak wrote "Newton dazzles...He exhibited breathtaking restraint, breaking down time with a subtle hand, tapping out painterly splashes of sound." Curt studied privately with Bob Gullotti, has a Master's degree in Jazz Performance from New England Conservatory, and once upon a time created a solo drumset arrangement of Lutoslawski's String Quartet (available on Bandcamp). Curt is also a climate change community builder and activist, and the proud parent of two musically-inclined young adults.