

SPINIFEX



Amsterdam-based Spinifex, named after a resilient Australian species of grass, may at first sound like a blend of free jazz, punkrock and other typically Western contemporary music. Yet, beneath the surface lies a rich tapestry of cyclical rhythms inspired by Middle-Eastern and Indian musical traditions.

Dave Foxall (Jazz Journal, UK): "ambitious yet unpretentious, tight, catchy, but also fearlessly exploratory and experimental."

Initially formed as a nonet in 2005, Spinifex transitioned to its current working-band size in 2010. Over time, the group has nurtured a distinct ensemble culture through extensive touring and the release of eight albums. Their music seamlessly integrates meticulously composed structures with massive improvisational freedom. Journalist Eyal Hareuveni aptly noted, "...only working bands as Spinifex can reach such high and tight levels of communication and sonic scope..." Fire and form, power and dance: Spinifex captivates audiences on a deep level.

Selected press quotes

"**SPINIFEX** will make an extremely welcome return to the Moers Festival ... combining the precision of composed themes with ample leeway for crashing over the barriers ... Heavy activity over a decade's span makes this stance so staunch with experience that any perversions of the agreed form can be confidently executed ... They are sharply arranged, open to a disciplined wildness when soloing." Martin Longley in [allaboutjazz](#), preview to the 2022 Moers Festival

"**SPINIFEX** is a free-spirited band of musicians who embrace free jazz in the very best way ... a brilliant record from some of the freest improvisers from the Be-Ne-Lux countries... a band you just have to listen to at a concert. Delicious!" Jan Granlie, [Salt Peanuts](#)

***** "... delicious breathtakers, non-idiomatic, nervous entanglements, minimalist rates of varying intensity, the rising dynamics of ruthless flow... amazing musical energy !!!" Jan Hocek, [jazzport.cz](#)

"Fun. Effective. Collaborative ... Punk exuberance is doused by Necrophagist-level precision." Andrey Henkin, [The New York City Jazz Record](#)

"... an hour of cutting-edge contemporary jazz ... music that is at the same time free and daring ... a unique trip on a runaway rollercoaster." Guy Peters, [enola.be](#)

"What's exciting—and impressive—about **SPINIFEX**'s music is the way the group manages to absorb and synthesize a variety of influences (jazz, punk, metal, Indian, etc.) and then produce something greater than a simple grab-bag of styles ... if you haven't heard **SPINIFEX** yet, now is the perfect time to dive in." Eric McDowell, [Free Jazz Collective](#)

***** "There is detail and thoroughness and passages that follow the most seminal of orchestral models, Duke Ellington's ... what's done is among the best one can find today in this music ... this record puts us in heaven." Rui Eduardo Paes, [jazz.pt](#)

"This exceptional band promises to be a highlight, giving Free Jazz a new face by pushing it to new limits and interpreting it anew." [skug.at](#), preview to 3 Tage Jazz, Saalfelden

"One of Europe's most exciting bands." Ken Vos, [Jazzism](#)

Recent albums



SPINIFEX Sings
featuring
Priya Purushothaman &
Björk Nielsdóttir
Trytone, 2022



SPINIFEX Beats The Plague
Trytone, 2021



SPINIFEX Souffix
Trytone, 2019



SPINIFEX Amphibian Ardour
Trytone, 2017



SPINIFEX Maximus
featuring
Jeb Bishop, Josh Sinton and more
Trytone, 2015



Spinifex artistic director **Tobias Klein**, on alto saxophone, has also made a name for himself as a bass clarinetist and composer of contemporary chamber music. Originally from Germany, he has been based in Amsterdam since the early '90s. His work reflects the cultural richness, spikiness and diversity of the Dutch capital. He has worked with numerous musicians including Chris Speed, Claudio Puntin, B.C. Manjunath, Claron McFadden, Marc Ducret, Jozef Dumoulin, Benoît Delbecq, Ches Smith and Oguz Büyükerberber.



Trumpet master **Bart Maris** has been a singular voice in European improvised music for decades. He was part of cult bands like Think of One and X-Legged Sally, and has worked with dEUS, Zita Swoon and Stromae. Current groups include Flat Earth Society, 1000 (with Jan Klare, Michael Vatcher and Wilbert de Joode) and Mååk.



Tenor saxophonist **John Dikeman** joined Spinifex in 2015. Drawing inspiration from a wide range of sources, John's playing runs the gamut of improvised music and technique. He is currently active as a member of numerous groups including Cactus Truck, Universal Indians featuring Joe McPhee; the trio Dikeman, Parker, Drake with William Parker and Hamid Drake, and numerous other collaborations including projects with Andrew Barker, Marta Warelis, Dirk Serries, Sun-Mi Hong, Steve Noble, Luis Vicente, Alexander Hawkins, Roger Turner, Peter Jacquemyn.



Guitarist **Jasper Stadhouders** is also active as bassist, composer and bandleader. He founded the PolyBand in 2015, for which he was commissioned by Gaudeamus Muziekweek. He has worked with Ken Vandermark (in his groups Made To Break, Entr'Acte and Next International), Nate Wooley, The Ex, and performed with Han Bennink, Ab Baars, Paal Nilssen-Love, Marshall Allen, Hamid Drake, Akira Sakata, Noel Redding, Andrew D'Angelo, Mars Williams, Kaja Drakler, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten, Michael Vatcher, Magda Mayas and Mette Rasmussen, among many others.



Gonçalo Almeida is a Portuguese bassist and composer based in Rotterdam. With a strong interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to his work, Gonçalo plays in a variety of projects that go from modern jazz, freejazz, jazzcore and free improvisation music, having shared the stage with improvisers such as Ab Baars, Balasz Pandi, Chris Speed, Carlos Zingaro, Ig Henneman, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Jorrit Dijkstra, Luis Vicente, Luis Lopes, Martin van Duynhoven, Nina Hitz, Peter Jacquemyn, Rodrigo Amado, Susana Santos Silva and Wilbert de Joode, among others.



Philipp Moser, on drums and percussion, also holds a master's degree in astrophysics. He has been active in a variety of settings as diverse as Jasper Stadhouders' PolyBand and the Dutch progressive metal band Cilice with which he played major festivals like Euroblast, UK Techfest, Fonofest, MetalGDL, Progpower, and Mayday Rock Festival.



Past festival highlights

2023

Jazz Bez Festival (UA)
3 Tage Jazz Saalfelden (AT)

2022

Que Jazz É Este? Festival (PT)
Moers Festival (DE)
Citadelic Festival (BE)
Ponavafest (CZ)

2021

Belgrade Jazz Festival (SRB)

2019

Freakshow Artrock Festival (DE)
North Sea Jazz Festival (NL)
Rewire (NL)
AMR Jazz Festival (CH)

2018

Jazz Goes To Town (CZ)
Houtfestival (NL)
Moers Festival (DE)

2017

Burg Herzberg Festival (DE)
Jazz no Parque Festival Serralves (PT)

2016

Freakshow Artrock Festival (DE)
Free Flow Festival (IT)
JOE Festival (DE)

2015

soundsofmusic (NL)

Watch

Spinifex youtube channel

Listen

Spinifex Bandcamp

Booking

NL - Tobias Klein
tobias@spinifexmusic.nl

International booking:
Chilly Chilly Agency, Esat Ekincioglu
chillichillyagency@gmail.com

www.spinifexmusic.nl

