

BOP EXPLOSION

Jazz Performed by an Outstanding All-Star Line-up

Bop Explosion brings together distinguished musicians from the Austrian and international jazz scenes in an exceptional ensemble defined by musical energy, virtuosity and a shared joy of playing. Founded by Vienna-based pianist and composer Ioan-Petru Avram (aka Gerhard Schramke), the band combines original compositions with selected jazz standards to create a versatile and distinctive sound.

While Bop Explosion is firmly rooted in bebop, its repertoire reaches far beyond the genre: modern jazz, Latin jazz, ballads and newly interpreted classics meet imaginative arrangements and ample space for improvisation. Striking horn lines, a dynamic rhythm section and Lili Mae's warm, expressive voice shape the band's distinctive character. Born in Serbia, the jazz vocalist, pianist and arranger combines lyrical phrasing with great musical sensitivity while contributing a strong artistic voice of her own to the ensemble's intense interplay. Additional rhythmic and tonal dimensions are provided by renowned Austrian percussionist Andi Steirer, whose unmistakable playing style and decades of experience further enrich Bop Explosion's multifaceted sound.

The idea for Bop Explosion grew out of a series of concerts featuring Ioan-Petru Avram, trumpeter Johannes Probst, bassist Uli Langthaler and drummer Dušan Novakov alongside renowned American alto saxophonist Allan Praskin. The special musical connection that emerged from these performances evolved into a band project in its own right, with Hungarian alto saxophonist Márton Papp adding another distinctive voice to the ensemble.

Following the album *Waltz for Serena*, the group released its latest album, *Simmering*. Featuring original compositions by Ioan-Petru Avram alongside selected jazz standards, the album brings together the individual musical personalities of the ensemble. The result is vibrant and multifaceted jazz—deeply aware of its traditions while remaining open, contemporary and immediate.

Line-up

Ioan-Petru Avram – Piano and Composition

Lili Mae – Vocals

Johannes Probst – Trumpet

Márton Papp – Alto Saxophone

Uli Langthaler – Bass

Dušan Novakov – Drums

Andi Steirer – Percussion