

ERIKA, NORBERT & SHAYE

- New Orleans Blues –
Press Info



A very special trio, playing authentic blues from the 20s, 30s and 40s with Vocal, Trumpet and Piano, inspired among others by Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Merline Johnson and Louis Armstrong.

Founded in October 2010, while playing informally together at the Spotted Cat Music Club on Frenchmen Street in New Orleans. On that occasion, there was such an instant magic in the music and the way they played together, that it was calling to be recorded, resulting in their first CD.

Soon after, the Trio started performing in the New Orleans Clubs on Frenchmen Street, and also appearing on Jazz festivals in Europe, as part of the musical package "Night On Frenchmen Street".

When performing together their musical lines are weaving effortlessly into a beautiful picture of sound. Again and again, people from the audience keep calling it "magic".

NORBERT SUSEMIHL Trumpet (D/DK/New Orleans)



Born 1956 in Hamburg Germany, Norbert Susemihl began to play the trumpet at the age of 15. In 1978 and 1979 he made his first trips to New Orleans. In 1980 he became a member of the „New Orleans Musicians Union“ and lived there for a year to study New Orleans Jazz and the lifestyle and culture that made and shaped this music. For the following 10 years, Norbert spent several months each year in New Orleans and played regularly with almost all of the local musicians, from the older traditional musicians to the younger generation players, covering all styles of New Orleans Music. He has made recordings with New Orleans musicians, veterans like Willie Humphrey, Father Al Lewis, and CoCoMo Joe, and from the younger generation, Wanda Rouzan, Kerry Lewis, Jason Marsalis and Louis Ford.

Besides playing with his own bands, Norbert is also regularly touring and performing as a guest with different bands in Europe, and New Orleans, performing on many festivals and clubs. He is considered today as one of the leading trumpeters in the New Orleans style.

ERIKA LEWIS – Vocal (New Orleans/USA)



Erika Lewis has an exceptional voice and style of singing that is all her own. Her interpretations of the classic blues are so rich of finesse and beauty, and touch the listener deeply. Originally from upstate New York, Erika began singing the blues and jazz in 2007 on the streets of Europe, while on tour with the Cyclown Cirkus, a bike powered musical sideshow of sorts. It was there that she and Shaye Cohn began playing music together. Erika moved to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and is performing there also with the band Tuba Skinny. She has appeared on Festivals in the US, Europe and Australia.

SHAYE COHN – piano (New Orleans/USA)



Shaye Cohn is an outstanding piano player, and amongst the best in the traditional New Orleans today. She has a classical education, and only started playing New Orleans Jazz around 2006. Inspired amongst others by Jelly Roll Morton, she has a perfect musical timing and proficiency of voicing the chords of a song. Besides the piano, she also is very skilful on the cornet, which she plays in the band Tuba Skinny. She moved to New Orleans from the west coast, and has performed on many festivals in the USA, Europe and Australia.