



Bio Eric van der Westen

Eric was born in Zierikzee (Zeeland) in the Netherlands on August 29 1963. At the age of 10 he started to play guitar, switched to bass and formed his own pop bands playing hard rock and new wave in the 70's and early 80's. He received first serious music education at the age of 19, after quitting his psychology study at the University, when he decided to be a professional musician. It was then that he picked up the double bass. After half a year he enrolled Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam where he graduated in 1990.

During the latter part of his study he started to play with Dutch jazz legends like Willem van Manen and Paul van Kemenade, in whose band he would remain for 14 years. In the passing of time he became a solid but creative workforce in many bands with musicians like Jasper Van 't Hof, Bob Malach, Kenny Wheeler, Martin Fondse a.m.o.

He developed a career as composer of modern crossover improvised music in which his band Quadrant played a pivotal role. He recorded 6 albums under his own name and numerous more as a side man.

During the 90's he took a serious interest in African music which brought him all over Africa and resulted in concerts with a wide range of musicians like Habib Koité, Louis Mhlanga, Winston Mankunku, Paul Hanmer, Minyeshu & Les Frères Guissé.



In recent years Eric has dug deep into Turkish culture, playing all varieties of music with Derya Türkan, Erkan Oğur, Fahir Atakoğlu, Uğur Işık and The Yarkin Brothers. He became a member of The Sezen Aksu Acoustic Band in February 2010 and played with her all over the world in famous venues like Carnegie Hall New York, Royal Albert Hall London, Circus Stockholm, Koelner Phil harmony, Harbiye Istanbul etc, sometimes playing to audiences of over 50000 people.

His acoustic duo with guitarist Aron Raams titled "A Traveller's Tale" is his latest structural musical vehicle based on their mutual admiration for blues, folk, country and rock music. The album received high positive acclaim and caused the duo to enroll an international career.

Besides all musical efforts, Eric has always pursued a business career as well. In time he was partner in a music software development business, has his own business to set up projects and runs a Record Label EWM Music. Since 2009 he's the General Manager of Muzieklab Brabant; a non profit organization that develops concepts and talents in music.