

**TrioZ** is the international cooperative jazz trio of pianist Atzko Kohashi, bassist Frans van der Hoeven and drummer Sebastiaan Kaptein. Atzko, from Japan, is currently residing in Amsterdam, Netherlands and conversely Sebastiaan, from Netherlands, is now living in Okinawa, Japan. So, they are internationally active both in east and west. The trio made a recording at MCO in Hilversum in 2014 and got an offer from Japanese record label Cloud to release the CD *Lujon*. Followed by the CD release in March 2015, they toured in Japan in November 2016, having concerts in Osaka & Tokyo, which was organized by Nippon Artists managements Inc. They played at Hakuju hall, one of the most prestigious concert halls in Tokyo. It was well received among both jazz fans & critics and was selected as ‘Impressive jazz concerts in 2016’ by JazzTokyo – a credible jazz webzine in Japan. The trio is renowned for the consciousness of the sound and their unique approach to music.

Video Clips:

Sunrise Concert at Beauforthuis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTp-DjkdRQc>

Live in Tokyo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrLxTX7rCyo>

Live in Tokyo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJIFhR2w2d4>

Album Promotion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UefAJ3WnkTg>

iTunes link: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/lujon/id977985951>



at Beauforthuis, Austerlitz



at Hakuju hall in Tokyo

## BIOGRAPHY

Atzko Kohashi



Atzko was born and raised in Japan and currently resides in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. She started her classical piano studies during childhood and has been improvising and composing since. She is a self-taught jazz pianist. As a student studying law in Keio University, Tokyo, she was an active member of the jazz big band, Keio Light Music Society.

From 1994 to 2001, Atzko lived in New York, where she learned from jazz master Steve Kuhn. Her music was influenced by this association. In 2001 Atzko moved back to Tokyo, where she played regularly with numerous jazz musicians. Aside from gigging in jazz clubs, she also worked for C.G. animation and radio drama music as a composer and a player.

In 2005, she moved to Amsterdam, and released her first album *Amstel Delight* (PJL 2005): a trio recording with her longtime collaborators in Japan. In 2009, she formed a duo with Dutch bassist Frans van der Hoeven and released the duo album *Amstel Moments* (BJL, 2009) followed by *Waltz for Debby* (Toniq 2013). Those albums were well received by numerous critics and music lovers-“*European taste with Japanese flavor*” “*Warm, Natural and human*”.

During those years she also appeared in Tokyo jazz scene with Japanese top bassist Yosuke Inoue and guitarist Kazuma Fujimoto in 2009 and 2011. Atzko and Yosuke made a live recording at Body & Soul in Tokyo and released the duo album *Turnaround* (What’s New 2010). In 2011, Music Apps *Book of Ballads* compiled from her previous albums came out from Spaceshower.Inc. The following year Atzko teamed up a unique duo with Dutch drummer Sebastiaan Kaptein and released the album *Dualtone* (Toniq 2012).

In June 2013, Atzko & Frans Duo toured Japan, with sold-out performances in several cities, including Tokyo, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Kagoshima. It was promoted by Camerata, an agency known for classical music performances.

Since 2014, she has been working on her trio project with Frans on bass and Sebastiaan on drums, and their album “*Lujon*” was released by Japanese record label *Cloud*. They toured in Japan in November 2016, playing at prestigious concert halls including Hakuju Hall in Tokyo and Kitara Hall in Sapporo. Their concert at Hakuju Hall was selected as “one of the most impressive concerts in 2016” by JazzTokyo.

Some of her albums had been adopted for KLM In-Flight music.

[www.atzkokohashi.com](http://www.atzkokohashi.com)

## Frans van der Hoeven



Bass player, composer, arranger, solo-performer, multi-Instrumentalist, teacher

- Born in Netherlands
- Studied at contrabass at Conservatorium Rotterdam and Conservatorium of Amsterdam
- Teaching at Conservatorium of Amsterdam

Member of:

Jasper Blom Quartet, Tineke Postma Quartet, Jesse van Ruller Trio, Eef Albers Trio  
Fay Claasen Band, Red Yellow & Blue, Jeroen van Vliet Trio, Sikeda and Zeelandsuite

Played with:

Clark Terry, Woody Shaw, Barney Wilen, Jack deJohnette, Eivind Aarset, Harry Sweets Edison, Art Farmer, Ronnie Cuber, Tom Harrel, Lee Konitz., Dee Dee Bridgewater, Toots Thielemans, Billy Hart, Teddy Edwards, Kurt, Rosenwinkel and others.

Recorded with:

The Toon Roos Quartet, Rob Madna, Jesse van Ruller Trio, Han Bennink, Diederik Wissels/David Linx, Art Farmer, Charlie Mariano, Benjamin Herman, Fairouz, Lew Tabackin, the DutchJazz Orchestra and others.

Solo Album: *First Flight*

Double Bass featured in a fusion of acoustic and electronic music.  
On Double Bass, Keyboards, Guitar, Computer programming, Drums, percussion and voices

Jazz festivals:

North Sea Jazz (Netherlands), Nice Jazz Festival (France), Victoria Jazz Festival (Spain), Pori Jazz Festival (Finland), Tokyo Jazz Festival (Japan) and many others.

He has also been a member of European Jazz Trio for more than 20 years and the trio frequently tours Japan and Korea.

## Sebastiaan Kaptein



- Born on August the 2nd, 1969 in Oegstgeest, The Netherlands
- After studying the cello, started playing drums at the age of 14
- Studied African drums from 1989
- Graduated cum laude at the Conservatory of Groningen in 1996
- Studied in New York in 1996 with several teachers.

Living in Japan since 2008. Working as drummer, teacher, producer.

Co-leader of the Amsterdam Jazz Connection (performance on Tokyo Jazz festival 2011)

Toured, played or recorded with:

Toots Thielemans, Dave Matthews (MJQ), Mike del Ferro, Benjamin Herman, Michiel Borstlap, Toon Roos (winner Bird award 2002), Jamesz (winner Dutch jazz Competition 2000), Deborah Brown, Fleurine, Brad Mehldau, Atsuko Kohashi, Frans van de Hoeven, LaVida New Orleans Band, Jesse van Ruller, Francien van Tuinen, Stian Carstensen, Ernest Ranglin, Deborah Carter, Thijs van Leer, Jan Akkerman, Tineke Postma, Rick Margitza, Hino Terumasa a.o.

In 40 different Countries:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Austria, Azerbeidjan, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jamaica, Kazachstan, Laos, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zanzibar

## RECENSIES

Pianist Atzko Kohashi is geboren in Japan en na omzwervingen in 2005 terecht gekomen in Amsterdam. Daar vormde ze een duo met bassist Frans van der Hoeven, waarvan in 2009 een cd verscheen. Met drummer Sebastiaan Kaptein is het duo uitgebreid tot trio. De cd *Lujon* is daarvan het eerste tastbare resultaat. De muziek van het trio is rustig en sfeervol: de klankkleur speelt een belangrijker rol. De meeste stukken zijn standards waarmee vrij wordt omgesprongen. Zo wordt *Footprints* van Wayne Shorter in 4/5 maat gespeeld in plaats van 6/4. Daarnaast biedt het album drie collectieve improvisaties.

(Jazz Bulletin, Nederland Jazz Archive 2015)

Stille wateren hebben diepe gronden. Een gezegde dat zeker van toepassing is op pianiste Atzko Kohashi die vanaf 2005 vanuit Nederland opereert. Met veel aandacht voor klank, kleur en sfeer boetseert de Japanse immer weer fraaie open stukken. Kohashi nam 'Lujon' op met een trio bestaande uit contrabassist Frans van der Hoeven en drummer Sebastiaan Kaptein. Met die eerste vormt ze sinds haar aankomst in Nederland een duo waarmee ze verschillende albums uitbracht. Ook met Kaptein bracht de pianiste een duoalbum uit. Samen vormen ze sinds 2013 een trio dat regelmatig ochtendconcerten geeft in het Beauforthuis in Austerlitz, resulterend in het nu verschenen 'Lujon'. 'Lujon' bestaat naast vier triocomposities uit vrije bewerkingen van composities van onder meer Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, George Gershwin, Baden Powell, Charlie Chaplin ('Smile') en Henry Mancini ('Lujon'). Uiteenlopend repertoire dat wordt herknood tot sfeervolle triostukken waarin de musici op gelijke voet een constante conversatie voeren. Die deels geïmproviseerde conversaties hebben een open en vaak ingetogen karakter en voorzien de groepsdynamiek van een harmonieus, bijna zen-achtige sfeer. 'Lujon' bestaat uit melancholische, mysterieuze en serene triostukken uitgevoerd door topmusici wiens spel doordacht en zelfbewust is. De dialogen tussen Kohashi, Van der Hoeven en Kaptein zijn van een blijvend boeiend gehalte waarin diepgang, dynamiek en het creëren van ruimte vooropstaan. 'Lujon' is daarmee een lang leven beschoren.

(Erno Elsinga/Jazzenzo, 2015)

Jazz-pianiste Atzko Kohashi heeft al eerder cd's uitgebracht met duetten met uitmuntende geluidskwaliteit, nu is er *Lujon* een cd met het klassieke piano trio. De schitterende opnames (One to One FDR mastering) vonden plaats in Hilversum en zijn uitgebracht door een Japanse platenmaatschappij (Cloud). Muzikaal is het een avontuurlijke reis in de jazz traditie met bass, drums en piano waar het oosten en het westen samenkomen. *Lujon* staat vol met mooie uitvoeringen van standards (o.a. *Quiet* van Danny Zeitlin, *Gentle Piece* van Kenny Wheeler) en improvisaties van de drie hoofdrolspelers. Luistertrip!

(Concerto, 2015)