

HERE

BORIS SCHMIDT

This new album slated for a **May 2025** release is Boris Schmidt's newest venture as a composer and band leader. It represents the natural evolution of his 2018 release **NOW** with new tunes and expanded personnel.

His band plays original compositions in a **melodic acoustic jazz** style influenced by his collaborations in classic and modern jazz (Ernie Hammes, Jaques Pirotton, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Manu Katché...), baroque (Grammy nominated ensemble l'Arpeggiata, Philippe Jarousky) and latin rhythms (latin Grammy winner Miguel Siso).

"[...] un grand jazz, fait de velours et de subtilité musicale" Philippe Thirionet , musicinbelgium.net



A lifelong musician Boris Schmidt only discovered his love for the doublebass at 19 years of age and left the comfort of his homecountry Luxembourg to forge his craft on stage starting with an intense stay at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague studying under Hein van de Geyn.

Building an international career centered in Belgium he got wrapped up in the busy life of a touring musician as is usual for bassists. Only a decade after his move to Brussels did he take time out of his schedule as a passionate sideman to form his own project. His first album **Now** was well received critically, sparking comparisons with Charlie Haden.

"[...] a refined, delicate and often dreamy jazz sound that is characterized by structured nuance and refinement." Philippe De Cleen , writteninmusic.com

The **2024** version of the Boris Schmidt Band goes from quartet to **sextet**, adding new colours to pick from with the arrival of Ana Rocha's vocals and the piano of Martin Salemi. Reviewing the tracklist one can hear the joy of arranging with a wider palette.

Release show dates 2025:

30 April: Trifolion, Echternach (Lux)
10 May: Jazzstation, Brussels (Be)
8 June, Baixu, Brussels (Be)
22 June, Neumünster, Luxembourg (Lux)

Video links:

Quartet: <https://youtu.be/65Bpdf8BBXQ?si=TrDe2la4Gxo90MN1>

Sextet: <https://youtu.be/PIGugt7gHjM?si=PpS80JMsW0-qEyKE>

https://youtu.be/ot_g3bPczwg

<https://youtu.be/1B5QKX68LZg>

Private **preview** link of **unmixed** recording:

https://soundcloud.com/boris-schmidt-music/sets/boris-schmidt-here/s-SSUFI9EKGcb?si=da0f9fd1367b4299b8fd87badcfc052f&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing



cover art by Elisa Pirondeau

Lineup:

Boris Schmidt – doublebass/compositions

Bruno van der Haegen – tenor sax and bass clarinet

Lorenzo Di Maio - guitar

Lionel Beuvs – drums

Ana Rocha – voice

Martin Salemi – piano

recorded by **Vincent De Bast**

Note that the music at this link is not the final product. These tracks were tragically lost in a fire before they could be mixed. This forced the band to re-record most of the tunes one year later.

Tracklist

1. Sharp Nails

A tense tale of a toxic relationship. Haunting sounds and lyrics woven in an original arrangement where the bass clarinet and upright bass bounce off each other. (Schmidt's debut as a lyricist)

2. Melancholia

Composed by Lorenzo Di Maio.
Purity and Space. Melancholia is a kind of soundtrack of sadness.

3. Broken Branch

Written in a depressing moment of 2020. Depiction of feeling lost but embracing the journey.
Lyrics by Ana Rocha.

4. Mad Becca

A Samba about a woman that might seem crazy at first glance but who actually just lives her best life. The ending borrows from Cuban montuno. Portuguese lyrics by Ana Rocha.

5. Puchi y el Sol

Loosely based on a Spanish Buleria rhythm. Poutchi is the name of Schmidt's dog who misses the sun of her hometown Sevilla.

6. Open Up

Like many musicians Bruno van der Haegen wrote a composition during one of the COVID "lockdowns". A subdued, bluesy jazz-waltz. The melody of the middle section evokes the feeling of longing for the brighter days ahead.

7. Whitewater

Pulled down the rapids of a river. A chase in a Bulgarian 7/8 rhythm.

8. Mourning

A melancholic ballad with Leonard Cohen-like harmonies and bolero accents.

9. Sharp Nails part two

The coda to Sharp Nails. Long open improvisation by Martin Salemi and full circle conclusion in a haunting mood.

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