

## Kaja Draksler CV

Pianist/composer

Date of birth: February 6, 1987

Place of birth: Kranj, Slovenia

Current address: Trboje 95, 4000 Kranj  
Slovenia

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### Language skills

Slovenian: native

English: fluent

Polish: proficient

German, Italian, Dutch: beginner

### Education

2010-2013 Masters studies in Classical Composition, *The Conservatory of Amsterdam*, The Netherlands, principal teacher: Richard Ayres

2005-2009 Bachelor studies in Jazz Piano, *Prince Claus Conservatory*, Groningen, The Netherlands. principal teacher: Marc van Roon

2009 Private lessons with Vijay Iyer and Jason Moran, New York, USA

2008 Exchange program (jazz piano) at SUNY *Purchase Collage* in New York, USA

2001-2005 *High School for Music* (jazz piano), Ljubljana, Slovenia

2001-2005 *Diocesan Classical Gymnasium*, Ljubljana, Slovenia

### Scholarships

Work Scholarship, Slovenian Ministry of Culture (2014, 2018)

Scholarship for studies abroad, Slovenian Ministry of Culture (2011-2013)

HSP Hyugens (2006-2009)

Zois Scholarship (2001-2006)

### Awards and selections

Nomination: Deutscher Jazzpris: Pianist of the Year (2023)

Shifting Foundation Grantee (2023)

Deutscher Jazzpris: Band of the Year, Punkt.Vrt.Plastik (2022)

Paul Acket Award (2018)

Young VIPs on Tour (2015)

EPTA Frans Schreuder Prijs (2013)

12 Points! Plus (2011)

Deloitte Jazz Award (2009)

Jazzon Composition Award (2007)

### Current projects

**Solo** Kaja Draksler- piano, composition

**matter 100** Kaja Draksler- piano, keyboards, composition; Lena Hessels- voice; Marta Warelis- keyboards, Andy Moor- guitar, Macio Moretti- drums and synth

**Kaja Draksler Octet**- Laura Polence, Björk Níelsdóttir- voice; Ada Rave, Ab Baars- reeds; George Dumitriu- violin & viola; Kaja Draksler- piano, composition; Lennart Heyndels- double bass; Onno Govaert- drums

**PUNKT.VRT.PLASTIK** Kaja Draksler- piano, composition; Petter Eldh- bass, composition; Christian Lillinger- drums, composition

**Czajka & Puchacz** Kaja Draksler- piano and percussion, Szymon Gasiorek- drums, percussion and electronics *semi-improvised music*

**Santos-Silva/Draksler** Susana Santos Silva- trumpet, composition; Kaja Draksler- piano, composition

**Draksler/Bach/Masecki** Marcin Masecki, Kaja Draksler- piano, *renditions of J.S.Bach*

**Feecho** Kaja Draksler- piano; Onno Govaert- drums; *improvised music*

**Draksler-Ex** Kaja Draksler- piano, Terrie Ex- guitar, *improvised music*

**To Pianos** Eve Risser, Kaja Draksler- piano and composition

**Hearth** Susana Santos Silva- trumpet, Ada Rave, Mette Rasmussen- saxophone, Kaja Draksler- piano  
*improvised music*

**as a sidewoman:**

*Christian Lillinger's Open Form for Society*

*Ab Baars' Fish-Scale Sunrise*

*I/O* Thanasis Deligiannis- voice, composition; George Dumitriu- guitar, electronics, violin; Kaja Draksler- piano; Roelof Pothuis- scenography, light; + guests

**Past projects**

**(2014-2017) Čudars-Draksler duo** Matiss Čudars- guitar, composition; Kaja Draksler- piano/Fender Rhodes/ organ, composition

**(2010-2016) BadBooshBand** Kaja Draksler- piano, composition; Mattia Magatelli- bass, composition; Luca Marini- drums, composition

**(2006-2014) Kaja Draksler Acropolis Quintet** Sanem Kalfa- voice; Kaja Draksler- piano, composition; George Dumitriu- guitar, electronics, composition; Mattia Magatelli- bass, composition; Kristijan Krajnčan- drums, composition

**(2005-2009) Katarchestra** Florinda Piticchio-voice; Rodica Ioan-oboe; Petra Klementova- flute; Rosolino Marinello- clarinet; Kristijan Krajnčan- violoncello; Leonardo Grimaudo- guitar; Atanas Popov- percussion; Kaja Draksler- piano/conducting

**As a composer commissioned by:**

KAAP and Concertgebouw Brugge, Doek/Tricentric Foundation, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Metropole Orchestra, EMJO, Looptail, Big Band RTV Slovenia, Italian Instabile Orchestra, Stirni Ensemble and others.

**As a teacher worked at:**

*International Jazz Platform*, Łódź, Poland, 2023

*Rhythmic Music Conservatory*, Copenhagen, Denmark, external teacher, 2019-2022

*Intertonale*, Scheibbs, Austria, 2019

*Trondheim Conservatory of Music*, Norway, workshop teacher, 2018

*Doek Improvised Music Workshop*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2018

*Creative Jazz Clinic Velenje*, Slovenia, 2016 and 2017

*Boben in Lajna* Summer Jazz Workshop, Ljubljana, Slovenia 2012

**Curator:**

*Suture Soven* music festival (co-curating)

*Doek Festival* (co-curating)

**A member of (collectives):**

*Doek*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

*I/O*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Discography:**

Draksler/Santos Silva: *GROW* (Intakt CD 391, 2022)

Ab Baars, Terrie Ex, Kaja Draksler: *When The Hills Run Across The Fields* (Fundacija Stuchaj, 2022)

Punkt.Vrt.Plastik: *Zurich Concert* (Intakt CD 380, 2022)

Kaja Draksler: *Soothe My Soul, Feed My Thought* (IDNO 0014, 2021)

Hearth: *Melt* (CF564CD, 2021)

Kiebitz & Uhu: *Entschuldigung* (single, digital only, 2021)

Punkt.Vrt.Plastik (Draksler/Eldh/Lillinger): *Somit*, (Intakt CD 353, 2021)

Feecho: *Live at Vancouver International Jazz Festival* (DoekRaw, 2020)

Czajka & Puchacz: *Bivališča* (Klopotec, IZKCD111, 2020)

Kaja Draksler Octet: *Out for Stars* (CF534CD, 2020)

Draksler- Ex: *The Swim* (Terp, IS-31LP, 2020)

Draksler/Eldh/Lillinger: *Punkt.Vrt.Plastik* (Intakt CD 318/ 2018)

Kaja Draksler, Eve Risser: *To Pianos* (CF448CD, 2017)

Kaja Draksler Octet: *Gledalec* (CF417CD, 2017)

Kaja Draksler, Susana Santos-Silva: *This Love* (CF353CD, 2015)

Čudars-Draksler duo: *Miniatures from our Living Room* (2015)

Feecho: *Bums* (eNR032, 2015)

BadBooshBand: *The Best Of* (ZKP, 2014)

Kaja Draksler Solo: *The Lives of Many Others* (CF286, 2013)  
European Movement Jazz Orchestra: *Live in Coimbra* (Clean Feed, 2011)  
Kaja Draksler Acropolis Quartet feat. Sanem Kalfa: *Türkü* (DruGod, 2009)  
Kaja Draksler: *Akropola* (Goga, 2008)  
Katarchestra: *Katarchestra* (Celinka, 2007)  
as composer:  
Janez Dovč & Slovenska filharmonija: *Philharmonika* (SF, 2007)

**Writings:**

*On Innovation and the Future of Music (and art)*, zine, 2021  
*Cecil Taylor: Life As, Structure within free improvisation*, pdf article, 2013