

Dré Pallemmaerts – drums

Dré Pallemmaerts, born in 1964, started playing dance music with his brother Jacky Pallemmaerts when he was 10. At 11, he started studying music at the Academy in Antwerp, and got into Jazz at the age of 14.

At 17, he met American bass Master John Clayton, who brought Dré in contact with Master drummer Jeff Hamilton, who in turn invited him to come and study with him in Los Angeles in 1984.

In '85, Dré appeared at the Singapore Jazz Festival, sent by the Belgian Ministry of Culture. Back in Belgium, Dré rapidly integrated the local scene, playing with heavies such as Steve Houben, Jacques Pelzer, Michel Herr, Bert Joris, Charles Loos, ...

Dutch pianist Jack Van Poll hired him for his trio with bassist Hein VAN DE GEYN. The trio accompanied several soloists such as Arnett Cobb, Spike Robinson, Dave Pike, and American vocalists, such as Etta Cameron, Deborah Brown and Dee Dee Bridgewater.

With singer Dee Daniels, he toured throughout Europe, Africa and the US, where he stayed for a while in Seattle, and worked with singer Ernestine Anderson, pianist James Williams and trumpeter Art Farmer.

With pianist Michel Herr and bassist Hein van de Geyn, he accompanies several soloists including Slide Hampton, Wolfgang Engstfeld, John Ruocco. They toured in quartet with Bert Joris, and recorded in quintet with Joe Lovano.

In '88, he stayed for 8 months in New York, playing a.o. with Judy Niemack, John Campbell, Fred Hersch, David Kikoski, etc.

Back in Belgium, he joined guitarist Philip Catherine's Trio for 3 years. He also toured and recorded with French guitarist Serge Lazarevitch.

In '91, he was awarded the Prize of "Youth and Music Flanders".

He was a member of the Bob Brookmeyer Quartet, Toon Roos Quartet, Jeanfrançois Prins Trio, Kurt Van Herck Quartet, Kris Defoort Trio, Erwin Vann Trio & Quartet, WORLDS, MOTHER, the BRUSSELS JAZZ ORCHESTRA, Michel Herr Trio & European Quintet, MÄÄK's SPIRIT, Frank Vaganée Trio, Bill Carrothers Trio, etc...

One of Belgium's most active drummers, he appeared with many soloists, such as Toots Thielemans, Junior Cook, Teddy Edwards, Mal Waldron, Norma Winstone, Red Holloway, Archie Shepp, John Scofield, Tom Harrell, Steve Grossman, Mark Turner, Kenny Werner, Kenny Wheeler, Chris Potter, ...

In '98, he participated in the recording of the Bert Joris soundtrack for the movie "Bal Masqué" (Julien Vreebos).

Pallemmaerts is currently working on a personal electronic music project under the name DP. One can also hear him as a sideman with several French musicians like Frank Amsallem, Stéphane Belmondo, Alex Tassel, Franck Avitabile, Baptiste Trotignon, Laika Fatien, and also with The Macha Gharibian Trio, Julien Tassin Trio, Ben Sluijs Quartet, Michel Herr ensemble, Bert Joris Quartet, and Novastar.

In 2007, he was awarded the Klara Prize (jazz) for his first album as a leader, featuring Mark Turner, "Pan harmonie", and the Belgian Django d'or in 2008.

In 2010, Dré Pallemmaerts created the record label and mix/mastering studio company 52creations, where he dubs as a sound engineer, and on which he released among other albums his second CD as a leader "Coutances" with Mark Turner, Jozef Dumoulin and Bill Carrothers, and his third album "Winter" with Pablo Held, Sebastian Gille and Clemens Van Der Feen.

Dré Pallemmaerts teaches at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique of Paris (F) and at the "Lemmens – LUCA" in Leuven (B).