



**Philharmonie  
Luxembourg**

**Aki Takase &  
Alexander von  
Schlippenbach**

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# Aki Takase & Alexander von Schlippenbach

Aki Takase, Alexander von Schlippenbach piano

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Jazz Currents

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**11.02.26**

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Mer / Mi / Wed

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19:30 80' without intermission

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Espace Découverte

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### **Aki Takase** piano

Aki Takase was born in Osaka and grew up in Tokyo. She began taking piano lessons when she was three years old. Piano was her main subject during her studies at the Tohogakuen University in Tokyo. 1979 a longer stay in the USA followed, as well as her first European appearance and a celebrated performance in 1981 at the Jazzfestival Berlin at Philharmonie with her trio featuring Takeo Moriyama and Nobuyoshi Ino. Numerous tours and recordings followed with Dave Liebman, Sheila Jordan, Cecil McBee, Lester Bowie, Fred Frith, Otomo Yoshihide, Bob Moses, Joe Henderson, Niels Henning Orsted Pedersen, John Scofield and many more. In the 1990s, she formed very successful duos and toured worldwide with the singer Maria Joao and the saxophone player David Murray. She has formed a trio with Reggie Workmann and Rashied Ali, played duos with Alexander von Schlippenbach and implemented projects with Toki String Orchestra. She was awarded the UDJ Award in 1990, 1991, 1994 and 1998. From 1997 to 1999, she worked as a guest lecturer at the Musikhochschule «Hanns Eisler» in Berlin. In 1998, she received the Critics' Award of the *Berliner Zeitung*. In 2001, her solo CD «Le Cahier du Bal» (Leo Records) was released, as well as her «W. C. Handy-Project» with Rudi Mahall, Nils Wogram, Fred Frith and Paul Lovens. «St. Louis Blues» (Enja Records) received the SWR Jazz Award in 2002. In 2004, the prestigious German Record Critics' Award (Jahrespreis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik) followed nine German Critics awards. Since then, she has engaged in numerous new projects, such as duos with Alexander von Schlippenbach, Lauren Newton, Han Bennink, Silke Eberhard and Louis Sclavis as well as the Trio LOK 03 (Alexander von Schlippenbach & DJ Illvibe), TAMA (Jan Roder and Oliver Steidle), Aki and the Good Boys, La Planete Quartet with Louis Sclavis, Vincent Courtois and Dominique Pifarely, to mention just a few. She is one of the most creative jazz artists active nowadays. For years, she has cooperated with the dancer Yui Kawaguchi in their ongoing project «Die Stadt im Klavier». Aki Takase received the Berlin Jazz Award 2018, then in 2021 the German Jazz Prize as best solo artist on piano/ keyboards as well as the Albert-Mangelsdorff Preis. At the Philharmonie Luxembourg, she last appeared during the 2012/13 season.

### **Alexander von Schlippenbach** piano

One of Europe's premier free jazz bandleaders, pianist Alexander von Schlippenbach's music mixes free and contemporary classical elements, with his slashing solos often the link between the two in his compositions. Schlippenbach formed The Globe Unity Orchestra in 1966 to perform the piece Globe Unity, which had been commissioned by the Berliner Jazztage. He remained involved with the orchestra into the 1980s. Schlippenbach began taking piano lessons at the age of eight and studied at the Staatliche Hochschule for Musik in Cologne with the composers Bernd Alois Zimmermann and Rudolf Petzold. He played with Gunther Hampel in 1963 and was a member of Manfred Schoof's quintet from 1964 to 1967. Schlippenbach began heading various bands after 1967, among them a trio with Evan Parker and Paul Lovens in 1970 and a duo with Sven-Ake Johansson which they co-formed in 1976. Schlippenbach has also given many solo performances. In the late 1980s, he formed the Berlin Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, which has featured a number

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of esteemed European avant-garde jazz musicians, including Evan Parker, Paul Lovens, Kenny Wheeler, Misha Mengelberg and Aki Takase. During the 1990s, Schlippenbach did duo work with Tony Oxley, Sam Rivers and Aki Takase. In 1999, he started a performance cycle and radio recording of Thelonius Monk's complete works, i.e. all the compositions, with Rudi Mahall and his group Die Enttäuschung. He was awarded the Kunstpreis der Stadt Berlin (1976), the Schallplattenpreise der UDJ (1980/81), the Albert-MangelsdorffPreis (1994), the German Record Critics' Award in 2005, the SWR Jazz Award in 2007, the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Band (German Federal Cross of Merit) in 2017, the German Jazz Prize (Lifetime Achievement) in 2024, the German Jazz Prize (Piano) in 2024 and the Berlin Jazz Prize in 2024. At the Philharmonie Luxembourg, he last appeared during the 2022/23 season.

Prochain concert du cycle  
Nächstes Konzert in der Reihe  
Next concert in the series

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**29.04.26**

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**Marc Ribot Quartet**  
Hurry Red Telephone

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19:30 80'

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**Espace Découverte**

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