

# PASSONA

## Bios

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### **Leandra Wiesli vocals**

Leandra Wiesli discovered her passion for the stage at an early age. She cannot remember a time "before" the music. Singing has always been a part of the 29-year-old's life. After years of singing lessons and working in the school band, she was a choir member in the musical Space Dream - the original from 2010 to 2011. Small appearances followed at weddings, vernissages or funeral ceremonies. For several years she has been involved in the musical association Flawil, where she has played Morticia Addams from The Addams Family or Violet Newstead from 9 to 5 - The Musical. Since 2019 she has been regularly accompanied by jazz pianist Urs C. Eigenmann. Together they founded the band PASSONA at the end of 2020.

[www.leandrawiesli.ch](http://www.leandrawiesli.ch)



### **Markus Bittmann (CH) tenor sax**

After completing his classical trumpet training, Markus Bittmann switched to the saxophone shortly before entering military music. At the age of 17 he was a finalist in the DRS3 band contest and has since played over 1000 concerts with rock and funk bands such as Soap Soup, Waterproof, Fritz and Tino, Hotwash, Wilde 13, Elias Bernet, Wilden Tiger, Bigband 14u, Amazonas Chor, RumbleFish, BossAffair and in places such as Open Air St. Gallen, Arbon, Bischofszell, Jazz Festival Montreux, Pentorama, Panem. Today he is currently a member of the bands Red Cube, Zuccherino & Friends, Santandrea Band and Markus Bittmann is on the road with various other projects. He says: "Music was my first love".

[www.bittmann.ch](http://www.bittmann.ch)



### **Alex Steiner (CH) guit**

teaches guitar and choral singing as a diploma music teacher in the region of St.Gallen. He is trained at the Jazz Scool St.Gallen. It plays with the well-known band "Red Cube" and in other various other groups, as well as with Simon Johnson's "Bluesonix" and as a studio musician.

[www.facebook.com/alex.steiner.5203](https://www.facebook.com/alex.steiner.5203)



## **Urs C. Eigenmann (CH) keys**

Urs is mainly a self-taught musician. However, he did study at the Jass Scool Graz (A) and Bern (CH). In 1967, he established the Urs Carl Eigenmann-Trio, a true Blues band. Shortly after, in 1968, he formed the legendary band off&out. With this band, Urs played many concerts, among others, several times at the Jazzfestival Zürich. In addition, Urs formed the band Umamaca with which he performed at the Open Air St. Gallen, in 1985. Urs has also been a successful composer. Two of his major works include the commissioned work Open Opera (1993), as well as the total work of art Alli Zäme (1998). In 2008, he initiated the international festival Jazzin which he has been organizing 3/3 regularly. „The list of musicians who were part of off&out is long and impressive. And by the way, but not to forget: Urs C. Eigenmann made real Swiss Jazz history. It cannot be another 50 years, but as long as this „fellow“ exists, we can expect a lot more of off&out – and we are looking forward to it!“, wrote the journalist Richard Butz.

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



## **Marc Ray Oxendine (USA) bass**

was born in Manhattan, New York City... 1982-1985 Grandmothers Love, Pueblo de las Vacchas tristes, First Take, etc... Switzerland. 1985-1989 Peter Wollbrandt and Jan Fride Wollbrandt (Kraan) Germany. Various bands and studio recordings. Switzerland, Jazz School St. Gallen CH. 1989-1990 Half Moon Cut USA Musicians Institute, Hollywood CA. 1990-1994 Hoochie Coo with David Glick and Johnny Angel Scaglione (Talas) USA, EGG with Dan Blanz and Callum Benepe LAPD with Nucci Solazzo, Danny Merritt, Mark White and Steve De Marchi, Ant Bee with Mothers of Invention USA, etc... 1995-2017 Recordings, tours and concerts with Just Two, Saft, Elias Bernet, Nuuk, Freda Goodlett, Mr. Mmmh, Kalpana Rao, Birds of Paradise, Get Wet, Christine Lauterburg, Fundamental Groove Family, Gerhard Gabriel, Los Grecos, Saihou, Jimmy Skizzo, Gee K, Holiday Bluegrass Jam, Heloiza & Pau de Lei, Mizan, BBFrances, Wait & See, Donmax, members of Kraan, Overhead, Urs C. Eigenmann, Malcolm Green, Ceravolo Brothers, Reggie Saunders, Permanent Party, Cesar & Go West, Myron, Andy Egert, Dalls Hodge, Days of Yonder, Red Cube, off&out, The \$elfies, Phil Gates, Karl Frierson & Soulprint... US-Speaker for Head, Leica, DRS3, Radio Argovia...

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



## **Andy Leumann (CH) drums**

After his studies at the Swiss Jazzschool in Bern with Billie Brooks Andy starts his career as professional drummer 1978 at the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF. 1980 he meets for the first time the Pianist U.C. Eigenmann in his band off&out. With the bass player and singer Pino Buoro almost plays at the same time in the formations Infra Steff and Soul Set. All three meet each other for the first time in Eigenmann's Band Umamaca.

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

