

# FRANK VAGANÉE

Alto- and soprano saxophonist, arranger, composer,  
artistic director BJO, teacher

°1966

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

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

[www.jazznbeyond.be](http://www.jazznbeyond.be)

[www.luca-arts.be](http://www.luca-arts.be)

Frank Vaganée was born on March 19, 1966 in Mechelen, Belgium. He received a classical musical education at the Conservatory of Mechelen and the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp (1974-1985).

Frank got improvisation lessons from the American jazz saxophonist John Ruocco at the Antwerp Jazz Studio (1983-1986) and studied composition and arranging techniques at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne (1993-1995) with another American, Bob Brookmeyer. In 1998 he moved to New York to study. Frank has led his own bands and composed for both large and small orchestral forces since 1983. He was a freelancer at the BRT (Belgian Radio and Television) Jazz Orchestra and BRT Big Band from 1986-1991.

He was a member of the 'Timeless Orchestra' from the Netherlands, with which he toured throughout Europe and Japan (1989-1993) and represented Belgium in 1989 in the EBU-big band (European Broadcasting Union) in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy.



In 1991 Frank was named best jazz talent by the Belgian Jazz Press.

In 1993 he won the CERA Bank's "Youth and Music" Award.

In 1994 he and the BJO won the "Prix Nicolas Dor".

In 2001 Frank won the "Django d'Or" award.

In 2006 Frank and the BJO won the "Flemish Culture Award".

In 2011 he won the "Jazzmozaïk [magazine] Award".

Between 2011 and 2013, Frank was artist-in-residence in his hometown Mechelen, Belgium. In this capacity, he realized numerous projects in Mechelen, including: the jazz oratorio "Say, sing it, the city are we" in collaboration with poet Roger De Neef, in the context of the Newtopia festival, "The end of the world", a play in collaboration with theater 't Arsenaal, "Serendipity", a musical score in addition to the exhibition of artist painter Beniti Cornelis. He wrote compositions for the Mechelen carillon, "Scattered Rhymes", a project in collaboration with Zefiro Torna and organized numerous workshops in collaboration with the Municipal Conservatory.

In 2012 he and the BJO won an Oscar for "Best Original Film Score" for their work on the music for the film "The Artist".

In 2013, the Brussels Jazz Orchestra's "Wild Beauty" was nominated for a Grammy Award in both the "Best Album" and "Best Arrangement" categories.

Frank is a co-founder and artistic director of the Brussels Jazz Orchestra ([www.brusselsjazzorchestra.com](http://www.brusselsjazzorchestra.com)).

Frank Vaganée taught at the Jazz Studio in Antwerp (vzw Halewijn Foundation) from 1987 till 1990. From 1992 till 1994 he taught jazz saxophone at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam and from 1993 till 2004 saxophone and jazz ensemble at the Royal Conservatory in Ghent. Since 1993, Frank has taught jazz saxophone, ensemble playing, big band, jazz arrangement and saxophone techniques in Leuven at the Lemmens campus of the LUCA School of Arts. He has given many workshops and master classes. Frank is also an artist/endorser for Yanagisawa saxophones and for Marca reeds.

Discography (most relevant titles):

- 2018: We Have a Dream Brussels Jazz Orchestra ft. Tutu Puoane
- 2017: Happy Men OTO Machine
- 2017: Smooth Shake, Brussels Jazz Orchestra – Bert Joris (WERF records)
- 2016: Two Small Bags, Ten Million Dreams Brussels Jazz Orchestra, I Solisti del Vento, Brussels Vocal Project, David Linx, Tutu Puoane (VOF SIEN)
- 2016: BREL Brussels Jazz Orchestra ft. David Linx (JazzVillage)
- 2016: OTO Machine
- 2016: Amaranthine Let the music speak! (auto-production)
- 2015: The Music of Enrico Pieranunzi. Brussels Jazz Orchestra, Bert Joris, Enrico Pieranunzi. (WERF records)
- 2014: Here comes tomorrow. Steven Delannoye New York Trio ft. Frank Vaganée (WERF records)
- 2013: Big Company. Florian Ross Big Band
- 2013: Serendipity. Frank Vaganée – Beniti Cornelis
- 2013: Wild Beauty. Brussels Jazz Orchestra ft Joe Lovano. (HalfNote Records)
- 2013: BJO's Finest. Brussels Jazz Orchestra. (Saphrane Records NL)
- 2012: Happy Notes! Del Ferro – Vaganée Group (WERF records)
- 2012: Steven Delannoye New York Trio ft Frank Vaganée (Jazz Inside records)
- 2012: A Different Porgy, another Bess Brussels Jazz Orchestra (Naive records)
- 2011: Guided Dream Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Dave Liebman (Prova records)
- 2011: Het einde van de wereld Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Michael De Cock (Davidsfonds)
- 2011: Institute of Higher Learning Brussels Jazz Orchestra ft Kenny Werner (HalfNote Records)
- 2010: Marie's Momentum The New Chris Joris Experience (WERF records)
- 2010: Vliegen tot de Hemel Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Michael De Cock – Davidsfonds
- 2010: Signs & Signatures Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Bert Joris - WERF records
- 2010: Mama Africa Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Tutu Puoane (Saphrane records)
- 2009: Creating Chances Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Brussels Philharmonic
- 2008: Jazzolympics Brussels Jazz Orchestra/David Linx (compilatie cd)
- 2008: Ten years ago Brussels Jazz Orchestra/ Richard Galliano (Milan records)
- 2008: The music of Michel Herr Brussels Jazz Orchestra (WERF records)
- 2007: Yellow Sounds and other colours Saxkartel & Tutu Poeane (WERF records)
- 2007: Changing Faces Brussels Jazz Orchestra/ David Linx (O+ records)
- 2007: Eight Ball & White Horse Florian Ross Octet
- 2006: Dangerous Liaison Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Filharmonie (Talent records)
- 2006: Countermove Brussels Jazz Orchestra (WERF records)
- 2005: Meeting Colours Brussels Jazz Orchestra/Philip Catherine (Dreyfuss records)
- 2003: Naked in the Cosmos Brussels Jazz Orchestra and Kenny Werner (Impulz records)
- 2002: Nathalie Lories Trio + Extensions 'Tumbuctu' (WERF records)
- 2002: The Music of Bert Joris Brussels Jazz Orchestra (WERF records)
- 1999: The September Sessions Brussels Jazz Orchestra (WERF records)
- 1999: Frank Vaganée Trio feat. J.Ruocco 'Two Trios' (WERF records)
- 1997: Live! Brussels Jazz Orchestra (Coda records)

- 1996: A Live Act / Act Big Band (Igloo records)
- 1996: Live! Del Ferro/Vaganée Group (ARecords)
- 1993: Introducing the Del Ferro/Vaganée Group (ARecords)
- 1991: Songs for Mbizo Chris Joris (Tonesetters)
- 1991: Picture a View Frank Vaganée Quintet (BSharp records)