

# Jonathan Sell

Double Bass, Electric Bass, Composer  
Intercultural Exchange

Wasserstraße 15      Mobil: 0049157 77 38 24 97  
77652 Offenburg      [jonathansell@orange-bird.de](mailto:jonathansell@orange-bird.de)  
Born:                    07.08.1987 in Hof/Saale  
Nationality:            German



## Biography

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Jonathan Sell is a bass player who is active in a wide range of styles, including Jazz, Rock and Blues as well as Arabic Maqam and Indian Raga. Because the world of music is just too diverse and rich, he does not want to limit himself to one specific style of music. As a result, he changes styles frequently and creates a global musical aesthetic out of their entirety. Jonathan has been drawn to the Bass and its power and warmth from very early on. He prefers a rich, wooden sound on the double bass, while his electric bass is very much influenced by his love for the 60s Fender Precision Bass.

Jonathan's idea of his role as a bassist, as a connector and supporter, goes beyond its musical meaning: His transcultural projects have worked together for many years and value friendship and creating an artistic vision together above all else. The intensive connection to other musicians and regular trips to their home countries have made those once foreign cultures part of Jonathan's identity. In his global musical vision the special characteristics of all musical cultures are taken seriously. The unique musical trademarks of the Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Indian music tradition, like microtonality, richness of individual interpretation and rhythm diversity, and those of the western musical tradition, like polyphony, counterpoint and jazz improvisation, fuse into a new entity.

There have already been incredible opportunities for Jonathan to accomplish this vision: for example at the Royal Opera House / Muskat, at Festival International de Hammamet / Tunis, at International Music Centre Ashram / Varanasi and at Nationaltheater Mannheim / Musiksalon Welt, where his group Haz'art Trio was Artist in Residency in 2019.

In July 2017 Jonathan finished his master studies of jazz-double-bass and electric bass with Prof. Thomas Stabenow and Prof. Dave King in Mannheim with distinction.

He is a member of the Oriental Music Academy Mannheim, where he commits himself to cultural exchange through music. Since 2015 he is also teaching "Transcultural Bass" at the Oriental Music Academy Mannheim. He is creating and organising artistic projects and works as an event manager. At the Popakademie Baden-Württemberg, he is working as a lecturer for composition, bandcoaching in the world-music-department.

## Musical Education

2015 – 2017	<p>Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim Studium bei Prof. Thomas Stabenow / Prof. Dave King <b>Double Bass &amp; Electric Bass / Jazz, Rock, Pop</b> <b>Master of Music: Grade 1,0</b></p>
2011 – 2015	<p>Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim Studium bei Prof. Thomas Stabenow / Prof. Dave King <b>Double Bass &amp; Electric Bass / Jazz, Rock, Pop</b> <b>Bachelor of Music: Grade 1,3</b></p>

## Musical Projects & CD Productions (selection)

<i>Beyond Borders</i> <a href="http://www.beyondborders.band">www.beyondborders.band</a>	Arabic Jazz – Quartett 2018 <i>It Just Happens</i> 2013 <i>Un Coup de Destin</i>
<i>Haz'art Trio</i> <a href="http://www.hazart-trio.de">www.hazart-trio.de</a>	Arabic Jazz – Trio 2017 <i>Infinite Chase</i>
<i>NeckarGanga</i> <a href="http://www.neckarganga.com">www.neckarganga.com</a>	Indian Jazz – Sextett 2019 <i>Swanaad</i> 2016 <i>Inaad</i>
<i>Fityan Band</i> <a href="http://www.fityan-band.de">www.fityan-band.de</a>	Arabic Jazz Rock – Quartett 2018 <i>Oriental Space</i>
<i>The Swindlers</i> <a href="http://www.theswindlers.de">www.theswindlers.de</a>	Progressive Rock & Jazz – Quartett 2017 <i>Talk! Celebrating the Music of King Crimson</i>
<i>Tuyala</i> <a href="http://www.tuyala.de">www.tuyala.de</a>	Spoken Word & Jazz – Quartett 2017 <i>Random Words of Wisdom</i>
<i>Ensemble Sarband</i> <a href="http://www.sarband.de">www.sarband.de</a>	Alte Musik & Osmanische Musik

## **Artist in Residence: Haz'art Trio at Nationaltheater Mannheim**

„Musik, die über die Grenzen der Kulturbereiche hinweg nach gemeinsamen Energien und Formen sucht: Jazzrhythmen, Maqam, Barockmusik.“

- 06.10.2019 „Von Orient bis Mozart“  
 21.11.2019 „Musikreise durch den Orient“  
 09.01.2020 „Westöstlicher Divan“  
 27.01.2020 „Kunst der Fuge“  
 25.02.2020 „Arabischer Liederabend“

## **Artistic Conception & Bass Player for Concerts & Workshops during Festival Young Artists Bayreuth**

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- 2020            **„Summer of Love“** – Musikalische Reflexion des Sommers der Liebe 1967 in einer Konzerte, welche die Liebe in all ihren Facetten zeigt.
- 2019            **„Bandcamp Heimat<sup>3</sup>“** – Die Suche nach der eigentlichen Heimat: arabische Musiktradition meets Bluegrass & Country Music
- 2018            **„Passio – Compassio. Leidenschaft und Leiden“** – Werke von J.S. Bach Kurt Weill, christliche und muslimische arabische Lieder in Arrangements zwischen Jazz, Barock und orientalischer Tradition.
- 2016            **“Gregorio Allegri: Miserere”** - Karfreitagsliturgie und Bußpsalm wird konzeptuell in ein musikalisches Friedensgebet für den arabischen Konflikt gewandelt.
- 2015            **„Roots to the Future“** – Lieder der Heimat
- 2014            **“Son of the Sheik”** – Stummfilmgala im Stil der 20er Jahre
- 2013            **„Die Sarazenin“** – Genreübergreifendes Gesamtkunstwerk mit Musik, Tanz und Theater zum Text Richard Wagners
- 2012            **„Wurzeln in die Zukunft“** – Tradition und Modern in Jazz, Arabischer und europäischer klassischer Musik und ihre interkulturellen Hintergründe
- 2011            **„Zwei Welten – eine Musik?“** – Arabische klassische Musik, das klangliche Symbol für die goldene Vergangenheit und die kulturelle Einheit der arabischen Welt sowie Jazz, die etablierte Klangikone der westlichen Moderne

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## **Selection Concert Activity**

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- 30.October 2018    [Enjoy Jazz Festival](#) / Alte Feuerwache Mannheim  
*Haz'art Trio & Beyond Borders Band*
- 06.October 2017    [Galway Jazz Festival](#) / Druid Theatre Galway – *Haz'art Trio*
- 19.June 2017        [Theaterhaus Stuttgart](#) / *Haz'art & NeckarGanga*
- 07.October 2016     [Enjoy Jazz Festival](#) / Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen Mannheim  
*Madd Ensemble & Fityan Band*
- 14.July 2016        [Festival der Kulturen](#) / Stuttgart Marktplatz  
*NeckarGanga & Fityan Band*

07.February 2016    Subah e Banares Stage Assi Ghat Varanasi / Indien - *NeckarGanga*

14.October 2015    Fondation de la Maison de Tunisie / Paris – *Haz'art Trio*

21.July 2014        Festival International de Hammamet / Tunis – *Beyond Borders Band*

05.April 2014        Royal Opera House Maskat / Oman – *Ensemble Sarband*