



IMG *Artists*

## FRANK DUPREE TRIO

Frank Dupree (piano) Jakob Krupp (bass) Obi Jenne (drums)

With infectious energy, irrepressible enthusiasm, and an extraordinary musical presence, the Frank Dupree Trio straddles the borders between classical music and jazz. As an ensemble unique in the European musical landscape, the award-winning pianist and conductor Frank Dupree has recruited two outstanding soloists: drummer Obi Jenne and double bass player Jakob Krupp.

Combining a conscientious approach to classical masterpieces with the flair and fluidity of jazz improvisation, the Frank Dupree Trio delights in the limitless variety of musical genres and revels in finding the spaces in between. Their repertoire includes original compositions as well as their own arrangements, and spans a musical field extending from Beethoven, Ravel, and Nikolai Kapustin to songs by Kurt Weill, George Gershwin, and Leonard Bernstein, and all the way to jazz standards by icons such as Duke Ellington and Chick Corea.

International concert tours have taken the Frank Dupree Trio to various European countries and South Korea, and are complemented by engagements at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Jazzfest Bonn, the Heidelberger Frühling, the Kurt-Weill-Fest Dessau, and the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, as well as appearances on ZDF-Morgenmagazin, SWR2, BR-Klassik, and Deutschlandfunk Kultur. Concert projects and CD recordings have resulted in collaborations with renowned orchestras such as the SWR Symphonieorchester, the SWR Big Band, the Dortmunder Philharmoniker, the Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, the Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal, and the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn.

Highlights of the 2023–2024 season include concerts with the Robert-Schumann-Philharmonie Chemnitz, the Göttinger Symphonieorchester, and the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz, an extensive tour with the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, and performances at the Theater St. Gallen and the Staatstheater Darmstadt. Festival invitations take the Frank Dupree Trio to Westfalen Classics, the Kammermusiktage Homburg, the Weingartner Musiktage, and the Musikfestspiele Heidenheim.

The Frank Dupree Trio achieved resounding international success in 2022 with its debut CD *Blueprint (Capriccio)*, which features arrangements of works by Ukrainian-born composer Nikolai Kapustin for jazz trio. The New York Times chose the CD as one of the albums most worth listening to. The recording was also recommended by the editorial department of the television programs *arte journal* and *3sat Kulturzeit*, while *rbb-Kultur* named *Blueprint* album of the week. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* described the trio's Kapustin interpretations as "enthraling blueprints," and praised the ensemble's "artistic excellence."

On the album *Salted Caramel (Berlin Classics)*, also released in 2022, the Frank Dupree Trio, together with trumpeter Simon Höfele, combines works from the trumpet literature with jazz standards. *Fono Forum* states: "That Frank Dupree is equally at home in jazz as well as in classical music should have already been obvious from his Kapustin performances, and is once again manifested here in a most beguiling way."

The *arte* documentary *Jacques Loussier. Wenn Klassik auf Jazz trifft (2023)* portrays the Frank Dupree Trio and hails the ensemble as a modern example of a crossover jazz trio.

## Artist biographies



**Frank Dupree**, winner of the International Classical Music Award and the Opus Klassik, stands as one of the most versatile pianists and conductors of the new generation. Known for his infectious energy and unbridled enthusiasm, Dupree captivates audiences not only as a soloist, sharing the stage with renowned orchestras worldwide, but also as a play/direct artist, conductor, and the leader of his own jazz ensemble, the Frank Dupree Trio. Dupree's recordings of Nikolai Kapustin's piano concertos have attracted much international attention (*New York Times*: "One of the most entertaining and put-on-repeat recordings [of the] year"). As of 2023, Frank Dupree has been the Artistic Partner of the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn.

In the 2023-2024 season, Frank Dupree will give his solo debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra (Kapustin & Tchaikovsky / Santtu-Matias Rouvali), Malmö Operaorkester (Mozart play/direct), NDR Radiophilharmonie (Gershwin / Eiji Ōue), Staatsorchester Mainz (HK Gruber) and

Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal (Gershwin / Patrick Hahn). Recitals and chamber music projects will take him to Lincoln Center in New York, London's Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Brucknerhaus Linz.

Highlights of Frank Dupree's career include performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Orchestre national d'Île-de-France, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège, Bern Symphony Orchestra, Trondheim Symfionorkester, Malmö SymfionOrkester, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and the Sinfónica Nacional de México. Frank Dupree regularly collaborates as soloist and conductor with the SWR Symphony Orchestra, Dortmunder Philharmoniker, Essener Philharmoniker, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Staatskapelle Weimar and Sinfonieorchester Liechtenstein, and many more.

On past tours, Dupree has performed at the Verbier Festival, Lucerne Festival, Vaduz Classic, Beethovenfest Bonn, Heidelberger Frühling, Kissinger Sommer, Kurt Weill Fest, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, as well as at renowned concert halls such as the Royal Albert Hall, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Philharmonie de Paris, and the Tonhalle Zürich.

Frank Dupree is a passionate chamber musician who effortlessly crosses genre boundaries, and the same can be said for his Frank Dupree Trio: together with Jakob Krupp (double bass) and Obi Jenne (drums) Dupree explores the fascinating intersection between jazz and classical music. In addition, Frank Dupree continues to develop innovative and unique programmes catered towards a number of exciting chamber collaborations, with particularly flourishing artistic relationships with his fellow rising stars; such as Kian Soltani, Vivi Vassileva, Timothy Ridout, Simon Höfele, Noa Wildschut and Pablo Barragán.

Frank Dupree's current CD productions focus predominantly on the works of Ukrainian-born composer Nikolai Kapustin (1937-2020). His interpretations of Piano Concerto No. 4 (Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn / Case Scaglione) and Piano Concerto No. 5 (Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin / Dominik Beykirch) have earned him both the International Classical Music Award and the Diapason d'Or. Gramophone Magazine recognised Dupree's 'flamboyant brilliance'; WDR further praised his rendition of Piano Concerto No. 5 as 'fantastic,' noting that the performance perfectly captures 'the drive and pure joy [...] of this music.' Dupree's avid interest in contemporary music is reflected in his world premieres, both recorded and on stage, and close collaborations with composers such as Wolfgang Rihm, HK Gruber, Péter Eötvös, and Christian Jost.

Born in 1991 in Rastatt, Germany, Dupree began taking piano and percussion lessons at an early age. He later studied piano under Professor Sontraud Speidel and conducting with Professors Péter Eötvös and Hans Zender at the University of Music Karlsruhe. In 2012, he was awarded first prize at the International Hans von Bülow Competition in Meiningen for his dual-role performance as pianist and conductor interpreting Beethoven. In 2014, Dupree was the sole prizewinner at Deutscher Musikwettbewerb and also received scholarships from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben and the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes. He gained valuable insights from master classes with Emanuel Ax, Menahem Pressler, Ferenc Rados, and Gábor Takács-Nagy and has been assistant in projects to Sir Simon Rattle, François-Xavier Roth, and Mario Venzago. Frank Dupree is a Steinway Artist.



**Jakob Krupp** is a highly talented double bass player equally active in classical, jazz, and contemporary music.

His international musical career has taken him to concert halls such as the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Berlin Philharmonie, and the Wiener Musikverein. He has made guest appearances at festivals such as the Darmstädter Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, the Berliner Festspiele, and the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Highlights of his career include concerts as a jazz soloist with the Staatsorchester Saarbrücken, the Dortmunder Philharmoniker, and the Münchner Symphoniker.

During his studies, he became a member of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, where he worked with conductors such as Jonathan Nott, Ingo Metzmacher, and Sylvain Cambreling. In 2019 he was a double bass player in the Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Mainz. He currently collaborates with the Ensemble Reflektor.

Jakob Krupp had already become well known in the field of jazz at a young age. He won several prizes at "jugend jazzt," and also won the concert prize at the Jazztage Dresden. Since then, he has been invited to jazz clubs and festivals throughout Germany, and has shared the stage with artists such as Tony Lakatos, Christof Lauer and Libor Šima.

A graduate of the Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie, Jakob Krupp is a highly regarded interpreter of contemporary music both as an ensemble musician and as a soloist, for example in projects with Ensemble Modern, Rimini Protokoll, Klangforum Heidelberg, and Orchester im Treppenhaus. He has collaborated with composers such as Brian Ferneyhough, Rebecca Saunders, and Heiner Goebbels, and has participated in numerous world premieres. In 2022 he was an artist-in-residence at the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation.

Jakob Krupp grew up in Trier and, after graduating from the Conservatoire de Ville de Luxembourg, studied classical double bass and contemporary music at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt. Additionally, he has a low bass voice and is active as a singer.



Drummer **Obi Jenne** is internationally acclaimed for his distinctive stage presence, brilliant technical skills, and flair for blending disparate musical genres.

Concert tours have taken him to major concert halls on all continents, such as the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the KKL Luzern, the Teatro Romano di Verona, the NCPA Mumbai, and all the main concert halls in Germany, as well as to international festivals such as the Jazz Open Stuttgart. Obi Jenne has recorded nearly 100 albums and is a recipient of both the ICMA and the German Record Critics' Award.

He is the leader of the Stuttgart Jazz Orchestra, the Porsche Big Band, Band in the Bix, and the cult band Soul Diamonds. He has performed with Dee Dee Bridgewater, Helen Schneider, Lang Lang, Art Farmer, Jimmy Woode, Benny Golson, Ack van Rooyen, Chuck Berry, Imaani Saleen, the Pointer Sisters, Les McCann, Cécile Verny, Klaus Graf, Olaf Polziehn, David Gazarov, Bill Ramsey, Kenny Wheeler, Katie Melua, Till Brönner, Chaka Khan, and Roby and Tony Lakatos. Jenne is the drummer for the "German Jazz Masters" with Klaus Doldinger, Wolfgang Dauner, Manfred Schoof, and Wolfgang Schmid.

Born in Heidelberg and inspired by jazz and classical music since early childhood, Jenne began studying classical percussion at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Trossingen at the age of 17. His first professional engagements were productions with almost all of the radio symphony orchestras in Germany, the Ensemble Modern, and the German Brass. He has served as a percussionist in the Orchester des Nationaltheaters Mannheim, and as an academy player with the Berliner Philharmoniker.

Obi Jenne's early interest in jazz and groove music can be traced back to a masterclass with legendary drummer Elvin Jones that he attended when he was twelve. This unforgettable experience with such an exceptional musician as Elvin Jones has influenced Jenne to this day, and he regards the interaction inherent in playing in a band as the highest form of musical fulfillment.

IMG Artists, September 2023