

Press information

## „Omer Klein & the Poetics“ release debut album

OMER KLEIN

THE POETICS



**Publication date: 6th of March 2026**

**Label: XJAZZ! Music**

**Omer Klein** Piano, Fender Rhodes  
**Tineke Postma** Soprano & Alto Saxophones  
**Omri Abramov** Tenor Saxophone, Flute  
**Haggai Cohen-Milo** Acoustic & Electric Bass  
**Amir Bresler** Drums  
**Tupac Mantilla** Percussion

Omer Klein's sextet, founded during his artist-in-residency at the Alte Oper Frankfurt, is an exciting musical ensemble that allows the pianist and composer to express the many facets of his work in a bigger band. A group of intrepid musicians based on his trio come together to form a colorful amalgam of various keyboard instruments, basses, percussion, and wind instruments. Klein's first collection of compositions for the sextet thrives on its characteristic infectious grooves, memorable melodies, and adventurous harmonies, which are combined here with a new sense of arrangement and orchestration.

Omer Klein had composed a full-length program for the sextet's premiere in Frankfurt in April 2025, drawing inspiration from his great love for the musical worlds of Brazil and Africa. Wolfgang Sandner subsequently wrote in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung about "freely breathing collective music" and "meaningful poetry without words (...). We eagerly await the sextet's first recording."

Now the time has come: The Poetics recorded their debut album at the BR studio in Nürnberg, which will be released on March 6 on the label XJAZZ! Music.

"I had been thinking for some time about forming a larger ensemble where I could use more colors as a composer. Besides, some of my favorite pieces feature horn players, and I slowly began to feel it was a bit crazy that I never used them myself," says Omer Klein about his new project. "With Tineke's alto and soprano saxophones and Omri's tenor saxophone and flute, I now have a very rich palette at my disposal as a composer. The Poetics also bring together very strong individual personalities who have one thing in common: they are all unique virtuosos on their instruments, but above all they are good listeners who are interested in developing something special in the moment, not in showing off their own dexterity."



Brazilian samba, choro, and African polyrhythms inspired Omer Klein for the sextet's debut album. He is fascinated by the uniqueness of Brazilian music with its strong groove, rhythmic complexity, harmonic richness, and melodic beauty, as found in the works of Antônio Carlos Jobim, Chico Buarque, and many others. The deep roots of Brazilian and African traditions in communal music-making fit seamlessly into Omer Klein's recurring theme of connectedness and togetherness. He also sees the new album as an antidote to developments in a fast-paced digital world: music as a call for slowness, depth, and mindfulness: "I reacted to the shortening of everything: for example, to the culture of 5-second music clips on social media. On our debut album, the forms are expansive and uncompromising. It's an album that rewards genuine listening."

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## About the pieces on the album

"**Compassion**" is the long-awaited first single from Omer Klein's new and intriguing band, The Poetics. Klein's unmistakable melodic gift is at play here. Compassion has an immediately-memorable, warm and powerful melody, that is supported by an infectious, Cameroon-inspired groove. Klein's signature aching harmonies are also present, and the compositional structure is soulfully and masterfully brought to life by The Poetics: Klein's famous trio (feat. Bassist Haggai Cohen Milo and drummer Amir Bresler) is expanded by saxophone stars Tineke Postma and Omri Abramov, and the virtuoso Columbian percussionist Tupac Mantilla. On the emotional vibe of the piece, Klein adds: "Compassion is what we need more of in the world today, and urgently. I hope one day we'll all be able to agree on that. So, I chose to open my new album with this statement, as if to say: first things first. Before we say anything else, let's listen to one another."

"**Vento & Terra**" is the second single. This haunting composition, one of Klein's finest, reflects his deep love and admiration for Brazilian music, but without overt allusions to famous Brazilian rhythms. In contrast, Vento & Terra sits on an expansive, seductive backbeat laid down by Amir Bresler's drums, Tupac Mantilla's percussion and Haggai Cohen Milo's bass. The track's Brazilian source lies more in the harmonies and voice leading inspired by Klein's favorite composers, such as the legendary Chico Buarque. The melody builds itself gradually with sophistication and finesse, and is filled with longing. Klein can be heard here exploring the various colors and timbres his sextet has to offer, as the music keeps shifting between different orchestrations. The composition takes its time, saying everything that has to be said, before arriving at the space for improvisation, only in the searingly intense coda. There, Tineke Postma's and Omri Abramov's collective saxophone improvisation flies high and exuberant, underscored by Klein's daringly rich chord voicings. The ending is peaceful again, arriving at the spiritual destination. Klein says: "Vento & Terra is Portuguese for Wind and Earth. The piece contains a struggle, there's a lot of longing. But at the end it reaches Katharsis and a certain peacefulness. I was thinking about a reconnecting with nature, as a recovery from the anxieties brought on us by the technological world."



“**Plat Tunisien**” is the third single from the Poetics’ debut album. This track finds the pianist-composer and his tight new sextet grooving deep and swinging hard. Klein’s composition draws from his family’s roots in North Africa, including call and response patterns between piano and horns, and a sizzling 12/8 beat held down by bass, drums, percussion and Klein’s fierce left hand. This joyful, uplifting melody follows its own logic until it leads to the next surprise: after a marked unison statement by the full band, the musicians shift to a swinging beat, with Tineke Postma’s soprano solo leading the way. Klein gracefully and organically shows here the deep connections between North African rhythms and swinging Jazz music. Postma’s solo is followed by Klein’s, in which the deep interaction between him and his trio members Cohen-Milo and Bresler is once again delightful. After a Cohen-Milo bass solo, the full group returns to the original theme, this time at a breakneck fast tempo that is as exhilarating as it is impressive. This is modern, fresh music to dance to. Last but not least, the title, Plat Tunisien, is a homage to the Tunisian cuisine Klein grew up with - his maternal grandmother comes from the city of Gabes in Tunisia.

In “**Zebra Dazzle**” Klein and The Poetics are at their most crisp, colorful and groovy. The theme played by the saxophones sounds like a modern samba, while the rhythm section holds a funky backbeat underneath, accentuated by Klein’s masterful Fender Rhodes playing. The composition develops through numerous surprising twists and turns, creating a mix of Brazil, Funk, Modern Jazz and Klein’s own signature gifts: an undeniable ability to craft strong melodies and tempting structures. Omri Abramov provides a sizzling hot Tenor Saxophone solo, followed by an equally intense one by Klein’s Rhodes. After another statement of the theme, Amir Bresler’s groovy drums solo completes the saga, before everyone joins forces for the powerful coda.

“**Among Lions**” came from reading about indigenous tribes who coexist with wild animals, having developed the required techniques to do that. The title is also a wink to the band members of The Poetics: I sometimes feel like I’m among lions when I play with them...” (Citation Omer Klein)

“**Mugica**” is how I wrongly pronounced the Hebrew word for music when I was about two years old. It’s supposed to be pronounced “Muzica”. If my family’s reports are to be believed, I would always demand to go in the direction of any music I would hear on the street, calling “Mugica Mugica!”. So, I guess this ballad is my love song for music. I’m deeply moved by the way everyone played on this track in the studio. It was the moment where I thought “wow, we have a really beautiful band here.” (Citation Omer Klein)

“**Idoma**” I composed after seeing a three-headed mask created by the Idoma people of West Africa. The mask inspired me to think of Tineke, Omri and myself as three soloists, and I created different solo sections for each of us.” (Citation Omer Klein)

“**Samba of my Own**” is just what the title suggests. Some of my compositions feel like songs that are played instrumentally. This is one of those pieces. (Citation Omer Klein)



## About Omer Klein

The music of pianist and composer Omer Klein is “boundless” (New York Times) in its organic adaptation of highly diverse sources of inspiration, while Klein continuously “swings mainstream jazz concepts into the future” (Time Out, New York). A prolific performer and composer, Klein has released ten albums under his own name and over 100 original compositions.

Omer Klein is not only an Echo Award winner with an international career spanning Israel, the US, and Europe, but also a very inspiring conversationalist: he enjoys talking about inspiration, poetry, the artistic process, the dangers of digital media, and philosophical topics. He has released his albums on Warner and is a Steinway Artist. For years, he has been performing not only with his well-known Omer Klein Trio (founded in 2013), but also with mandolinist Avi Avital and the Aris Quartet, with whom he has enjoyed a very fruitful collaboration since 2020.

As a soloist and band leader, he has performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Nice Jazz Festival, the Jazz at Lincoln Center concert series, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Swing Hall Tokyo, the Elbphilharmonie, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Bremen Music Festival, the Dresden Music Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Berlin Philharmonic, and many other renowned concert halls.

**Omer Klein** was born in Israel in 1982 and grew up in Netanya. He is the son of Israeli parents and the grandchild of Tunisian-Libyan-Hungarian immigrants. Klein began playing keyboard instruments at the age of five. At the age of 13, he focused on the piano, while he had already been composing and improvising before that. He studied at the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts Givatayim before moving to America on a scholarship to study at the New England Conservatory in Boston. There he studied jazz piano with Danilo Perez and Ran Blake, while learning classical piano with Alexander Korsantia. In 2005, Klein moved to New York, where he continued his studies privately under the guidance of Fred Hersch.

He has been living in Germany since 2009. The Alte Oper Frankfurt invited him to be its Artist in Residence for the 2024/2025 season. Since October 2025, he has been Professor of Jazz Piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich.

**Link to audio samples (WAVs may be used for radio broadcasting):**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/xymagr2ifl0waq4roq15/ANMlcs1bYZQhRb5EbKZPWRc?rlkey=ojx97f15mdzt4urf7tg7heab4&st=sqc7kuv3&dl=0>



**Videos from the sextet's world premiere in April 2025 at Alte Oper Frankfurt:**

Vento & Terra <https://youtu.be/41BtUoFAk5k>

Zebra Dazzle <https://youtu.be/YaX87b0-mKo>

Compassion <https://youtu.be/JINdFrmkM0k>

Plat Tunisien <https://youtu.be/acUJ2j9x1fU>

**Tour dates**

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>14 Mar 2026</b>   | Forum am Schlosspark, Ludwigsburg     |
| <b>15 Mar 2026</b>   | Bimhuis Amsterdam                     |
| <b>18 Mar 2026</b>   | Staatstheater, Landsberg am Lech      |
| <b>19 Mar 2026</b>   | Zig Zag Jazzclub, Berlin              |
| <b>20 Mar 2026</b>   | Konzerthaus Dortmund                  |
| <b>21 Mar 2026</b>   | Bergson, München                      |
| <b>22 Mar 2026</b>   | Porgy & Bess, Wien                    |
| <b>7 Apr 2026</b>    | Moods, Zürich                         |
| <b>9 Apr 2026</b>    | Kammgarn Jazzfestival, Kaiserslautern |
| <b>11 Apr 2026</b>   | Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg              |
| <b>12 April 2026</b> | Schloß Neuhardenberg, Brandenburg     |

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