

Lea Maria Fries

Lea Maria Fries, a young Swiss vocalist stands out with her tempting timbre. She uses her energetic and profound approach and expressive articulation in various musical contexts. Jazz, pop, improvisation: her versatility and unique style are visible in various bands and projects. At the moment she feels very comfortable with urban pulsation and the crackling of electro-acoustic textures, where the boundary of sound and song are amalgamating, which is mostly audible in her current band VSITOR. Lea Maria Fries is equipped with a strong instinct for rhythm and groove and knows how to phrase and navigate with very distinct timbres. Sensible for a coherent sound-aesthetic, she unfolds her crisp vocabulary and understands it, to knit groove, space and melody together to a tightly woven tension.

Bio

Lea Maria Fries, born 1989 in Switzerland, played the piano for five years before she started to discover her vocal talent at age 14. After graduating from high school, she started studying Jazz Vocals at the Lucerne School of Music. She had the pleasure to learn from Susanne Abbuehl, HP Pfammatter, Wolfgang Zwieler, Bettina Klöti and many more.

In 2010, she participated as the youngest and only Swiss artist in the semi-finals of the international Jazz Vocal Competition at the Montreux Jazz Festival with Quincy Jones in the jury. In 2014 she completed her MA in Music Performance with Lauren Newton and Hans Feigenwinter. From early on, Lea Fries became a popular sidewoman in various bands and projects, among others with Lauren Newton, Peter Schärli, Mario Hänni, Dominik Burkhalter, Roberto Bossard, HP Pfammatter or Sebastian Strinning. She is influenced by jazz, pop, rock, electronic and black music and also loves improvisation.

As a performer and leader she blends and distills all these influences in bands such as VSITOR with the guitar player David Koch and Valentin Liechti on drums, or as a co-leader of the band NUUN with the Swiss pianist Marie Krüttli. With her versatile voice and her keen sense of rhythm, groove and phrasing, she stands out in a variety of contexts.

Since seven years, Lea Maria Fries is an active vocal coach and has been working privately as well as at different schools in Switzerland.

Quote

“Lea Maria Fries is an exceptionally talented and remarkable singer. She is creative and authentic in her interpretations of compositions as well as in the writing and singing of her own originals. Her vocal improvisations, with or without lyrics, are captivating and imaginative, with a luscious voice this listener can gladly surrender to.” *Lauren Newton, Vocalist*