

James Banner was born in Dudley, England in 1991. In 2015, after studying in Birmingham and Paris, he moved to Berlin to study with Greg Cohen and John Hollenbeck at the Jazz Institut Berlin (Universität der Künste/Hanns Eisler), where he graduated from the Masters program with Distinction in 2016. Now based between Berlin and the UK he performs and works around Europe as a musician, educator and composer.

He is composer in residence for *Make The Paint Dance*, an award-winning UK social enterprise bringing music and art to new audiences in underprivileged schools and creating collaborative compositions with participants, workshop leader for *Jazzlines* Town Hall Symphony Hall Birmingham, leading jazz workshops for local musicians aged 11-19, as well as double bass tutor at Leeds College of Music junior school. As a composer he received a studio award from the Berlin Senate Department of Culture and Europe, the resulting recording being released on the Cologne-based label *JazzHausMusik* in October 2018, and the Elsa Neumann Stipendium 2018 from the Berlin University of the Arts, which supports the ambitious project *Voices of Berlin*, setting unheard stories from the people of Berlin for mixed choir and improvising ensemble. His recent compositions for strings, solo piano and chamber ensemble inspired by the folk music of Hungary received a review in the German national newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel* and performance at the Karneval der Kulturen.

He has collaborated and performed with Andreas Schmidt, Tobias Delius, Ugo Alunni, Alessandro Lanzoni, Kit Downes, Vilde&Inga, John Hollenbeck, Greg Cohen, Elias Stemeseder, Christian Lillinger, Jim Black, Declan Forde, Rachel Sermanni, Sebastian Gille, Clara Haberkamp, Hayden Chisholm, Max Andrzejewski, Eric Vaughn, Julian Siegel, Jeff Williams, Ric Yarborough, Joe Wright, Liam Noble, Mark Sanders, John Taylor, Percy Pursglove, Andrew Bain, George Colligan, Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra and the Konzerthaus Publikumsorchester. He also performs with the Birgitta Flick Quartet featuring Lina Nyberg, who completed a Goethe Institut funded tour of Sweden in 2016, being broadcast on Umeå Radio, and who will release a new album with the label *DoubleMoon* in 2018. The trio *FROG* with Fabiana Striffler and Declan Forde performed two sold out shows of the music of Duke Ellington's music at the Berlin Konzerthaus and Spiegelsaal in 2017. *PENGUIN* with Stefan Schultze and Daniel Schröteler will release their debut album in 2018. The collaborative trio *The Good Old Good Ones* with Downbeat award-winning vocalist Mirna Bogdanovic received the Yehudi Menuhin *Live Music Now* scholarship in 2016. James has also completed two UK tours with the award-winning Berlin-based pianist Mark Pringle, with his project *A Moveable Feast* in 2015 and with the collaborative pan-European project Andersson/ Pringle/Banner/Pereira in 2017, funded by Arts Council England.

He has performed at London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Cheltenham Jazz Festivals, the BBC Proms, X- JAZZ festival, Jazzwoche Burghausen, Regensburg Jazzweekend and venues such as the Vortex, Southbank Centre, the Sage Gateshead and Royal Albert Hall. In Berlin, he currently curates a monthly residency at *Donau115*, voted "one of the best jazz clubs in Europe" by *The Guardian*, with the duo project *Practically Married* with pianist Declan Forde.

Press:

Berlin Tagesspiegel - 04.03.17 - Nicky Pawlow
„eigenwillig, „schräg“, intensiv und humorvoll.“

Greg Cohen (Tom Waits, Ornette Coleman, John Zorn)
„a unique and surprising voice on his instrument... a gifted young composer...“

Mary Wakelam-Sloan (Programme Manager, Jazzlines THSH / Tutor, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)
„inspiring“

The Jazzmann.com, UK
„lyrical, deeply resonant bass“

Express and Star, UK
„a great deal of creative promise“