

Florian Egli

Saxophonist, bassist, composer and producer

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Zurich, Switzerland

Florian Egli is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer. As a saxophonist and bassist he performs with a wide range of ensembles, from jazz to indie pop, on international stages. As a bandleader he keeps initiating new, partly award-winning projects (e.g. Weird Beard). Under the solo alias Michael Benedikt he devotes himself to studio work. Egli lives in Zurich, co-founded the jazz newsletter JazzTripp and supports the local scene through his work at the JazzBaragge.



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Education

2004–2008	Jazz School Zurich (ZHdK), teaching diploma in saxophone with Christoph Grab and Reto Suhner
2003–2004	Technical vocational school Schaffhausen
2003–2004	Jazz workshop with Ewald Hügler and Thomas Silvestri
1999–2003	Apprenticeship as an electronics technician
1991–1999	Saxophone lessons with Aribert Huscher; active in the Trasadingen brass band
1987–1991	Recorder and piano lessons with his mother, Gisela Egli-Zemp

Teaching

2008–2012	Teacher at the music school in Romanshorn
2010–2012	Teacher at the music school in Regensdorf
2012–today	Private tuition via Instrumentor

Recognition

2024	Cultural Promotion Award of the City of Schaffhausen
2021–2025	Arvore scholarship
2020	Atelier scholarship Berlin
2018	Best of Jazz on Bandcamp (Weird Beard – Orientation)
2015	European Showcase, Jazzahead! (Weird Beard)
2015	Promotion Award of the International Lake Constance Conference
2015	Swiss Jazz Award (Raphael Jost & Lots Of Horns)
2014	Moods Artist in Residence
2014	Finalist, ZKB Jazz Prize (Weird Beard)
2014	1st prize BeJazz Transnational (Egli-Santana Group)
2013	Cultural Promotion Award of the City of Schaffhausen
2013	Promotion Award of the Marianne und Curt Dienemann Foundation
2006	Promotion Award of the Friedl Wald Foundation

Projects as leader and co-leader

2023–today	Orange Radio
2020–today	Michael Benedikt
2017–2020	Jenny
2015–today	The Jazz Trio
2014–2016	Egli-Santana Group
2008–2014	The Murder Of Amus Ames
2007–2025	Weird Beard
2000–2004	Quintessenz
1997–2002	Rhystadt Collabo

Projects as sideman

2018–today	Ursina
2018–2020	Theo Kapilidis Neoplatonic Trio
2016–2018	Philipp Fankhauser
2014–2021	Raphael Jost and Lots Of Horns
2012	Jürg Wickihalder Orchestra
2007–2017	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra

Other work as a musician

2019–today	Theater Rigiblick (Woodstock, John Lennon, Paul McCartney)
2017–2018	The Threepenny Opera, Schauspielhaus Zürich
2013–2014	Musical Anything Goes, Tonhalle Orchestra St. Gallen
2008–today	Swiss Jazz Orchestra
2008–today	Zurich Jazz Orchestra

Commitment to the jazz scene

2011–today	JazzBaragge, board member
2014–2018	Moods, board member
2018–2020	Jazz newsletter JazzTripp

Discography (selection)

2026	The Jazz Trio – The Perfect Spell	Bandcamp
2025	Michael Benedikt – Berlin EP	Hip Dozer
2024	Michael Benedikt – Monday Groove EP	Hip Dozer
2024	Michael Benedikt – We all Belong to Someone	Chilled Zebra
2023	Weird Beard – Vertigo	Intuition Records
2023	Michael Benedikt – No Pressure at All	Chilled Zebra
2023	The Jazz Trio – Out Of Nowhere	Bandcamp
2022	URSINA – Acoustic Variations	self-released
2021	URSINA – When I Let Go	Radicalis
2021	The Jazz Trio – On Air	Bandcamp
2021	The Jazz Trio – Take Five	Bandcamp
2020	The Jazz Trio – Autumn Leaves	Bandcamp
2019	Theo Kapilidis – To En	Puzzlemusik
2018	The Jazz Trio – Love Songs	Bandcamp
2018	Raphael Jost – Moose Days	Enja
2018	JENNY – Sound For The Moon	Anuklabel
2017	Weird Beard – Orientation	Intakt Records
2016	Weird Beard – Everything Moves	Intakt Records

2016	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra – Oaktree	QFTF
2016	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra – Ace Of My Heart	self-released
2012	Weird Beard – Away	Unit Records
2012	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra – Still Now	Unit Records
2012	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra – Berge Versetzen	Unit Records
2012	Jürg Wickihalder Orchestra – Narziss Und Echo	Intakt Records
2010	The Murder Of Amus Ames – Murderish Good Music	Unit Records
2009	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra – Don't Walk Too Far	Unit Records

Tours and festivals (selection)

2025	Lucerne Festival (CH)	Ursina
2025	Jazzfestival Willisau (CH)	Orange Radio
2024	Festival Jazz Linard (CH)	Ursina
2023	Jazzfestival Zug (CH)	The Jazz Trio
2023	Festival da Jazz St. Moritz (CH)	Ursina
2023	Vieljazz Festival Zug (CH)	Orange Radio
2022	Suonimobili Festival (IT)	The Jazz Trio
2022	Burghausen Jazzfestival (DE)	Philipp Fankhauser
2021	Suns Europe Festival Udine (IT)	Ursina
2020	Jazzfestival Schaffhausen (CH)	The Jazz Trio
2019	Greece tour (GR)	Theo Kapilidis
2019	South Africa tour (ZA)	The Mill
2019	Cape Town International Jazz Festival (ZA)	The Mill
2019	Jazzfestival Bern (CH)	Swiss Jazz Orchestra
2019	Moon and Stars Locarno (CH)	Ursina
2018	Germany tour (DE)	Weird Beard
2018	Open Air Monte Carasso (CH)	Ursina
2018	Blues Cruise Festival (IT, HR, GR)	Philipp Fankhauser
2017	Intakt Records Festival London (GB)	Weird Beard
2017	Goethegarten Festival Lisbon (PT)	Weird Beard
2017	Portugal tour (PT)	Weird Beard
2017	Heitere Open Air (CH)	Philipp Fankhauser
2016	Langnau Jazz Nights (CH)	Weird Beard
2016	Festa do Jazz Lisbon (PT)	Egli-Santana Group
2016	Grahamstown Festival residency (ZA)	Florian Egli
2016	Focsani Blues Festival (RO)	Philipp Fankhauser
2015	Winter Jazzfestival Bern (CH)	Egli-Santana Group
2015	Jazzfestival Moers (DE)	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra
2015	European Showcase Jazzahead! (DE)	Weird Beard
2015	Russia tour (RU)	Weird Beard
2014	Ascona Jazzfestival (CH)	Blue Bolero
2013	Japan tour (JP)	Weird Beard
2012	Europe tour (DE, AT, CZ, PL, SK)	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra
2012	Langnau Jazz Nights (CH)	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra
2012	BeJazz Summer Festival	Weird Beard
2011	Das Festival (CH)	Weird Beard
2011	Stadtsommer Zürich (CH)	Weird Beard
2010	Unerhört Festival (CH)	Jürg Wickihalder Orchestra
2009	Jazzwerkstatt Bern (CH)	Lucerne Jazz Orchestra