

# ROBERTO GATTO "PERFECTRIO"

**ROBERTO GATTO** drums  
**ALFONSO SANTIMONE** piano, fender rhodes  
**PIERPAOLO RANIERI** electric bass

"A very special project, that has mainly affected the quality of improvisation (it is difficult to listen to authentic improvisation today); a concentrated search for various degrees of tension and different moods was instantly expressed by the three, all excellent musicians: besides the leader, Alfonso Santimone on keyboards and Pierpaolo Ranieri on bass, both also skilled on electronic effects. Pointillist or banging situations have grown gradually to culminate in themes of various authors, never exposed slavishly, but always obliquely and harmonically distorted." *Libero Farnè | Allaboutjazz.com, 2013*



During a long and successful career that has taken him to the summit of Italian jazz, where he became one of the most representative musicians, Roberto Gatto started to move from the role of luxury-sideman to leader, creating a number of groups that have always collected instant success.

Without ceasing to enrich his list of collaborations, in which names such as Johnny Griffin, George Coleman, Curtis Fuller, Joe Zawinul, Pat Metheny, as well as the main Italian musicians appear, Roberto now lives in Rome and New York and cultivates his own music. After several projects related to Jazz tradition (such as the homage to Miles Davis Quintet and Shelly Manne), he now turns to explore new sounds, recalling one of his more recent projects that retraced the repertoire of progressive rock.

Without losing the link to tradition, this trio creates a multi-faceted performance, new sounds experiments and carries the audience into the world of electronics and improvisation. Moments of great energy and groove are alternated with moments of high lyricism and progressive sounds. The sound of the trio is characterized by Fender piano, analog synthesizers, loops and the use of live electronics by all three musicians. Indicating the formation in which he is currently more at ease and that allows him to play music in absolute freedom, Roberto Gatto gave the name "perfect trio" to this group.

The sidemen of the drummer are the leading pianist and keyboarder Alfonso Santimone - one of the most enterprising and creative musicians in Italian music scene - and Pierpaolo Ranieri on bass - an extraordinary young musician and connoisseur of new trends.

## BIOs

**Roberto Gatto** was born in Rome on 6th October 1958; his professional debut dates back to 1975 with the Trio di Roma (Danilo Rea, Enzo Pietropaoli). He has been playing all over the world and Europe with his own groups as well as with international artists. In addition to a refined timbre research and a perfect technique, the groups under his name are characterized by a warmth which is peculiar to Mediterranean culture. This undoubtedly makes Roberto Gatto one of the most interesting drummers and composers both in Europe and in the world.

He surely is the most renowned Italian drummer abroad, boasting important collaborations with artists inside and outside the jazz world. Many are his collaborations as sideman : Chet Baker, Freddy Hubbard, Lester Bowie, Gato Barbieri, Kenny Wheeler, Randy Brecker, Enrico Rava, Ivan Lins, Vince Mendoza, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Joey Calderazzo, Bob Berg, Steve Lacy, Johnny Griffin, George Coleman, Dave Liebman, Phil Woods, James Moody, Steve Grossman, Lee Konitz, Barney Wilen, Ronnie Cuber, Sal Nistico, Michael Brecker, Jed Levy, George Garzone, Tony Scott, Paul Jeffrey, Bill Smith, Joe Lovano, Curtis Fuller, Kay Winding, Albert Mangeldorff, Cedar Walton, Tommy Flanagan, Kenny Kirkland, Stefano Bollani, Mal Waldron, Ben Sidran, Enrico Pieranunzi, Dave Kikosky, Franco D'Andrea, John Scofield, John Abercrombie, Billy Cobham, Bobby Hutcherson, Didier Lockwood, Richard Galliano, Christian Escoudè, Joe Zawinul, Bireli Lagrene, Palle Danielson, Scott Colley, Eddie Gomez, Giovanni Tommaso, Paolo Damiani, Emmanuel Bex, Pat Metheny, Adam Rogers, Rita Marcotulli, Niels Henning Pedersen, Mark Turner, Lew Tabackin, Chris Potter, Mike Moreno, Dado Moroni.

As a leader, he has recorded many albums: Notes, Ask, Luna, Jungle Three, Improvisi, Sing Sing Sing, Roberto Gatto plays Rugantino, Deep, Traps, Gatto - Stefano Bollani Gershwin and more, A Tribute to Miles Davis Quintet, Omaggio al Progressive, The Music Next Door, Roberto Gatto Lysergic Band, Remembering Shelly.

Over the years he has composed film music, creating together with Maurizio Giammarco the soundtrack for "Nudo di donna" directed by Nino Manfredi, and in collaboration with Battista Lena the soundtracks for the films "Mignon è partita", which got five David di Donatello awards, "Verso sera" and "Il grande cocomero", all directed by Francesca Archibugi.

In 1983 he was number one in the monthly magazine Fare Musica poll as best Italian drummer. In 1983 and 1987 with the group Lingomania he was the Top Jazz poll winner of the magazine Musica Jazz in the Best group category. In 1988, 1989, 1990 he came first in the drummer category of "Your favourites" Guitar Club poll. In 2007, 2009 and 2010 he was voted as the best drummer in the Musica Jazz poll. In 1993 he made two didactic videos "Batteria vol. 1 e 2". He was the artistic director of the Jazz in progress project at Teatro dell'Angelo in Rome. For over twelve years he taught drums and ensemble music at the Siena Jazz seminars. He attended Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome and the Conservatory in L'Aquila. He holds the chair of jazz drums at Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome.

**Alfonso Santimone** was born in Ferrara and has been a permanent member of Julius Capiozzo's Quintet during the 90ies. Among others, he has performed and collaborated with Harold Land, Robert Wyatt, Gorge Cables, Jimmy Owens, Tony Scott, Bruce Forman, John Clark in Italy and Europe. As a composer and arranger, he writes music for theater plays, film and multimedia productions. For several years he played in numerous experimental music projects, both electronic and improvised, and has participated in several recorded works as composer and performer.

**Pierpaolo Ranieri** bass and double bass player; has worked and is currently working in the fields of Jazz and Pop with the following musicians and artists: Paola Turci, Marina Rei, Carmen Consoli, Massimo Ranieri, Giorgia, Teresa De Sio, Bungaro, Paolo Di Sabatino trio with Antonella Ruggiero, Mike Stern, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Greg Howe, Bop Mintzer, Bob Franceschini, Paul Gilbert, Robin Eubkans, Joy Garrison, and many others.



## CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

### 2013

26/08 - Piano Forte Jazz Festival, Ischia, Italy  
20/08 - Roccella Jazz Festival - Roccella Jonica, Italy  
25/07 - La Casa del Jazz summer festival, Roma, Italy  
24/07 - Valdarno Jazz - San Giovanni Valdarno, Italy  
18/07 - Mo' Better Festival - Grottammare, Italy  
09/07 - Umbria jazz Festival - Perugia, Italy  
01/07 - Suedtiroljazzfestival - Bolzano, Italy  
01/06 - Forma e Poesia nel Jazz Festival, Cagliari, Italy  
07/04 - Blue Note - Milano, Italy  
06/04 - Colors Club - Torino, Italy  
05/04 - Unisono Jazz Club - Feltre, Italy  
04/04 - Crossroads Jazz Festival - Modena, Italy  
30/03 - Ferrara Jazz Club - Ferrara, Italy  
29/03 - Al Vapore Jazz Club, Marghera, Italy  
28/03 - Bar Borsa, Vicenza, Italy

## LIVE REVIEWS



"A perfect trio. Nomen est omen - ancient Romans would have said. At the Casa del Jazz, Roberto Gatto along with Alfonso Santimone and Pierpaolo Ranieri have created a concert that we can hardly say not to be perfect. Perfect for placing music at the turn of experimentation, improvisation and tradition; perfect for the performance, unbalanced enough to give a sense of an acrobatic flight without a net, and at the same time balanced in instrumental technique and control by of all the musicians."

Maurizio Alvino | [jazzaroma.wordpress.com](http://jazzaroma.wordpress.com)

*"PerfectTrio demonstrated a strong compactness and identity. The cohesion between the leader and his partners (the granite Pierpaolo Ranieri and the imaginative Alfonso Santimone) has pursued a timeless quality jazz. It is exuberant and declamatory in its approach. A composite repertoire, which included classics of Ellington, Monk and the contemplative "Mood" by Ron Carter - Miles Davis alongside originals, has seen alternating evanescent and repeated orientalisms with explicit progressions of an updated funky-fusion."*

Libero Farnè | [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)



"Roberto Gatto's PerfectTrio (with Alfonso Santimone on piano, electric piano and electronics and Pierpaolo Ranieri on electric bass), whose CD will be released soon by the label Parco della Musica, played masterfully on the contrast between acoustic and electronic sounds, including songs totally improvised, updated classics, compositions of Monk and frippian echoes. The balance between the three is admirable: Gatto's fertile and fruitful drumming is free to create, thanks to the solid rhythmic and harmonic structure of the bass-playing and to the electronic effects led by himself and pianist. The latter is confirmed as one of the most glossy musicians of the Italian scene for his inventiveness, imagination, solid technique and creativity."

Enzo Fugaldi | [jazzitalia.net](http://jazzitalia.net)

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