

Matts Johan Leenders

musician

sound and media design

audio and video engineer (Dipl.-Ing. (FH))

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Vita

Johan Leenders, born 1983 in Emmerich, Germany, began his musical education at the age of five, when he took up piano lessons from Friedhelm Olfen. Especially because of Mr. Olfen's approach to musical education Johan got involved with classical music as well as Jazz and Pop right from the start and played in numerous bands of different styles of music. At the age of 12 Johan started his first Pop band „JAMP“ with his brother Philip, with which he played as a support for Roger Chapman. By taking up saxophone lessons from Robert Ritscher in 2000 he further widened his already broad musical approach.

By the end of his school days Johan began to take an interest in audio engineering and started to work as a live sound technician at Rock and Pop concerts after his graduation in 2002 (Abitur grade: 1,0/straight A).

In his studies of Audio and Video Engineering at the Robert-Schumann-Hochschule and University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf Johan was able to combine his musical and technical interests. Apart from a musical education with piano as his main subject (final exam 2006, grade: 1,0/A) he received a broad and deep artistic and technical education in a wide variety of audio and video/film vocations. In numerous projects inside and outside of his curriculum Johan proved his widespread talents as for example sound engineer, sound designer, director and editor. In 2011 he received his university diploma in Audio and Video Engineering, overall grade: 1,1/A).

From 2006 Johan has been working as a freelance pianist, composer and arranger also working as a lecturer in workshops on Jazz and improvisation. Beside his work at the theater, where he is working as a composer and live musician, gospel music has become one of his main work fields.

Since 2007 Johan has been working as a sound engineer and sound technician at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus (theatre), where he has collaborated with directors such as Hans-Ulrich Becker, Anna-Sophie Mahler, Herrmann Schmidt-Rahmer, Falk Richter, Amélie Niermeyer and Frank Panhans.

From 2009 Johan has been working as a freelance sound designer, sound engineer and audio- and video designer in live sound, theatre, film, television and video games.

His combined creative work with his brother Philip still forms a central part of Johan's artistic life. In 2009 they finished their interview film „Jeder für Sich“, in 2012 the first CD „Alabasta Music“ of their current band „Leenders“ came out.

In 2011 Johan won the WDR Jazzpreis with the FH Big Band Düsseldorf.

In 2012 his first book „Sound für Videospiele“ (Sound for Video Games) was released. It explains the characteristic artistic processes and technical workflow in the production of sound and music for video games.