## **ERKEL FERENC**

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Béla Lakatos Szakcsi Jr. Jazz-piano



PLACE OF BIRTH BUDAPEST

DATE OF BIRTH 1968.07.15.

## **BIOGRAPHY - DISCOGRAPHY**

- From the age of six to sixteen, Béla Jr. studied classical music. He later committed himself to jazz, becoming one of Hungary's most prominent jazz pianists.
- Throughout his career, he has collaborated with numerous renowned Hungarian and international musicians, including:
  - Dezső "Ablakos" Lakatos
  - Tony Lakatos
  - Rick Margitza
  - Jack DeJohnette
  - John Patitucci
- While studying jazz at the Bartók Béla Conservatory of Music, he was already performing at festivals alongside established Hungarian jazz figures such as:
  - Rudolf Tomsics
  - Imre Kőszegi
  - Géza "Pecek" Lakatos
- In 1989, he co-founded the fusion group Új Rákfogó, which included:
  - Kálmán Oláh (piano)
  - Rudolf Torma (bass)
  - Elemér Balázs (drums)
  - György Müller (percussion)
  - József Nagy (tenor saxophone)

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- In 1994, he became a founding member of the Babos Band, led by Gyula Babos, alongside:
  - György Szappanos
  - Gergő Borlai
  - Béla Szakcsi Lakatos Jr.

The group also served as the backing band for singer **Klári Katona**. They performed extensively at festivals both in Hungary and abroad.

- After this, he formed his own ensemble, which performed in both trio and expanded quintet formats, playing traditional acoustic jazz. Together with Csaba Tűzkő (recently returned from France), he formed a new group featuring:
  - Viktor Hárs on double bass
  - András "Pecek" Lakatos on drums
- In **1998**, he appeared on **Aladár Pege**'s album. In 2000, his band, the Szakcsi Jr. Quartet, released an album titled Happen, featuring:
  - Rudolf Torma (bass)
  - Elemér Balázs (drums)
  - Csaba Tűzkő (tenor saxophone)
  - Béla Szakcsi Lakatos Jr. (piano)
  - Béla Szalóki (trombone)

The album included original compositions and tributes to jazz legends such as **Freddie Hubbard** and **John Coltrane**.

- In 2003, he reached a major milestone in his career: he recorded an album with two world-renowned American jazz musicians, Jack DeJohnette (drums) and John Patitucci (double bass). The album was released in 2005.
- In 2001, he formed the Bop-Bee Trio, with:
  - András "Pecek" Lakatos (drums)
  - György Orbán (double bass)
- Béla Szakcsi Lakatos Jr. (piano, keys)
  The trio performs modern interpretations of original compositions within the framework of the classic piano trio.

They have played at numerous festivals and clubs, including successful performances in **Bucharest** and **Braşov** in **2003**.

• In 2004, in tribute to the legendary Charlie "Bird" Parker, the Tribute to Charlie Parker Band was formed to honor his legacy and musical spirit.



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The lineup included:

- Csaba Tűzkő (tenor saxophone)
- Kristóf Bacsó (alto saxophone)
- János Egri (double bass)
- Géza "Pecek" Lakatos (drums)

