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space and time.”

Most of Kasia's non-commissioned work forms part of her ongoing project titled "That's Jazz Babe". This project has a wide scope that allows her to move in any direction she wishes, such as her regular podcast focusing on the New York scene, photo exhibitions and currently she is compiling a photo book featuring her jazz photography. Kasia resides in Warsaw, Poland however spends a great deal of her time in New York City. Her relationship with New York is of course one of the key pillars of the "That's Jazz Babe" project and this can be seen throughout her body of work.

I was interested to know what Kasia considered the key success factor to be in maintaining an ongoing project while at the same time keeping it fresh. She explained "when you work on long term project it's important to live in that specific place, you have to know the people and establish relationships. If you display a warm attitude and get close to the people they will open their soul for you. You have to love people and not be afraid to get close to them. They won't bite! It's then that you can express what you feel and capture the right sentiment in one single frame. The other great thing when you're working with musicians is that they always tend to show up, after all, they all need good pictures."

As I mentioned above, Kasia has a very unique style and a look through her online portfolio will certainly underscore this. Heavily influenced by the work of French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, Kasia's images are a true representation of one singular moment in time. I asked about her thoughts on what makes a great composition. She replied, "It's those fractions of a second that determine the great shots, capturing a fleeting moment, the blink of an eye and then enclosing it "in frame". I try to capture those unique emotions and the interaction between the musician and the audience. I want to show how the music affects the artist and the world surrounding them. My compositions are multi-layered, I try to capture the whole story in one frame. I hope that when people



GEORGE CABLES
with Jeremy Pelt & Peter Washington

look at my photos they can almost feel the rhythm.

During her career, Kasia's work has been exhibited both in Europe and the United States and has garnered numerous awards including the "Best Portrait" at the Fuji Film awards and the MK Jazz Photo competition, for "best Jazz Portrait photographer". Recently her photo of bassist Russell Hall, shot on the streets of New York, was awarded the first prize in the 2020 edition of the World Jazz Photo Competition. The winning photo (displayed in this article) is a unique composition that in my mind stands out from the ordinary. I asked Kasia about how this shot came to be and what the back story was. She replied "The picture was taken on the crowded streets of New York. As I mentioned earlier, I like to document backstage and in this instance, I suggested to bassist Russell Hall that we meet half an hour before the show and do some special shots. The photo is extremely dynamic and there is a lot of life happening in the picture. It's like Manhattan itself, life happens as if in a kaleidoscope. I stopped to take one shot; standing behind a cyclist just passing by and captured Russell playing his bass on the side walk. The photo is not your typical musician shot, it's more like a street shot. It's important to use your intuition and know what framework you have at your disposal to tell your story. First impressions are important to me, it has to be fresh, it's really just a feeling. If the interplay of lines is correct, well, it is just there."

Kasia is not only active in the scene as a photographer. When I asked her about her other activities she explained "Well, I love jazz and while I'm first and foremost a photographer I also try to be active in other areas of the industry. I publish both photos and articles about musicians in JazzPress Magazine here in Poland. I also organize many exhibitions to display my project: "That's Jazz, Babe". Here in Poland, we don't have enough international and especially New York based musicians performing in the clubs. I have so many connections in the city that I decided to support the musicians and organize concerts here at the Hybrydy club in Warsaw. Unfortunately, the last concert was cancelled due to the pandemic but I hope that will happen again in the near future."

Speaking of the future, well as best you can these days, I asked Kasia what plans she has coming up. "I've spent many years now developing my identity as an artist and focusing on photography. I have many wishes and plans related to my artistic development. The most important thing for me is to live creatively and be willing to try new things and enjoy it every way you can. You need to enjoy your life and love whatever you are doing.

I want to focus on future projects and organize the jazz concerts in Warsaw for NYC jazz musicians. I also want to develop my skills in video production. Above all, I want to publish a photography album summarizing my jazz activity.

I have so many dreams... ■