

# Gabriele di Franco

Guitarist, Composer and Arranger

**Gabriele di Franco**, born in Italy and currently residing in Brussels is an Italian **arranger**, **composer**, and **guitarist**. He has spent a long stretch of his life as a professional musician; performing, recording and collaborating with many artists coming from all over the world.

Composing music at a very young age influenced by jazz and world music, Gabriele quickly gets a grasp of these different concepts and interprets them in his own way. This path brought him to leading his own band **BIJA**, that has been awarded the price “Band Revelation of the year 2012”. That same year he was also the finalist of the “Tiberio Nicola Award 12” and at the “Jimmy Wood Award”.

Two years later Gabriele and his band released their debut album “[BIJA](#)” (Slam).

He also achieved the podium at “International Fara Jazz Contest 2014” and at “International Jazz Competition of Bucharest 2015” with his trio [MYNAH](#), the “Brussels Jazz Marathon 2016” together with his band [Rubiks](#) and the 1<sup>st</sup> prize at “Multiculturita Black Music Contest 2017” and the “Audience Price” at Sibiu Jazz festival with Bija.

Gabriele graduated in 2014 with a major in Jazz guitar at the Conservatory of Nino Rota (IT) with an additional year of study at the renowned Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien (AUS).

After graduating Gabriele moved to Brussels to attend a Master study in Jazz Composition & Arranging at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (KCB). Here he studied with mentors such as [Kris Defoort](#). He completed his master studies at KCB in June 2018 cum laude.

In 2016 Gabriele recorded his second album “INTRO” (Emme Record Label) with his trio MYNAH and spent a long time on his European tour.

Since October 2016 Gabriele is working as composer, arranger and conductor for the [Bud Powell Jazz Orchestra](#).

In 2017 Gabriele won the [SIAE](#) (Italian Copyright Company) scholarship for authors under 35.

In November 2017 he also achieved the podium at the **JAZZ COMP GRAZ 2017** as “Second best Composer” with the big band arrangement of his composition “Aspetta”.

In 2018 he released two albums:

In March the album [SO FAR](#), released with the “Gottfried di Franco”, band founded in collaboration with the Austrian saxophonist [Stefan Gottfried](#).

And in May of the same year, was released the album [DEDALO](#) from the Bud Powell Jazz Orchestra, produced by the [Ass. Cult. Jazz Bud Powell](#), where he composed and arranged the whole repertoire.

19<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Gabriele has been selected as only composer master student from Belgium conservatories, to arrange 2 standards for the live coaching masterclass with the Wynton Marsalis and Lincoln Jazz Orchestra.

In September 2018, among 88 applications coming from all over the world, Gabriele got selected to be a residency artist of the Bijloke Summer Academy, where he worked on the development of his latest music-theater project **LULELA**: a contemporary opera articulated in multiple evolutionary possibilities.

(partners: [LOD music theatre](#), [Music Centre De Bijloke](#), [Royal Academy of Fine Arts](#) (KASK) & Royal Conservatory Ghent, [SPECTRA Ensemble](#), [JazzLab](#) and [International Opera Academy](#)).

Teaching is also one of Gabriele's passions. Having taught for many years, he encourages his students to see beyond the music. Showing how improvisational knowledge and technique combined with compositional knowledge is a key asset to being a good musician.

### **Discography**

[Bud Powell Jazz Orchestra – DEDALO](#) (Ass. Cult. Jazz Bud Powell & A. Chionna – 2018)

[Gottfried di Franco – So Far](#) (Sena Production – 2018)

[Mynah – Intro](#) (Emme Record Label – 2015)

[Bija – Bija](#) (Slam production – UK 2014)

### **Awards**

"Second best Composer" – *Jazz Comp Graz – "Aspetta" (Big Band Arrangement)* (2017)

"Audience Award" – *Sibiu Jazz Contest – Bija* (2017)

"Black Music Contest" – *Multiculturita – Bija* (2017)

"Band Revelation Of The Year" – *Jazzup – Bija* (2012)

"Soundslice" – *Bija* (2012)